Yahoo Group Archive: Alpha87a

Yahoo Group summary: Alpha 87A Amplifiers

These Yahoo Groups messages were archived in WARC format by ArchiveTeam in 2018. This PDF was generated by Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications from the WARC files in 2026.

Date span: 2007-10-25 through 2018-04-16

Source WARC: alpha87a.LMEJRLb.warc.gz

Source item: https://archive.org/details/yahoo-groups-2018-04-24T23-39-29Z-7ebba8

Messages included in this PDF: 2051

Message records with no body available in the source archive: 1

Yahoo replaced the domain portions of email addresses with @... in the archived messages. Characters lost in Yahoo's archived text appear as ?.

Messages are presented in ascending Yahoo message-ID order. Gaps indicate records absent from the source WARC or messages omitted from this PDF as spam.

1. blower

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-25 20:09:55 UTC
From: ken
Topic: 1 Message: 1

Has anyone gone thru replacing the birdcage blower? Mine is ticking and making a bit of noise on shut down.

I have the procedure from Alpha, and it mostly removing screws plus a couple of boards. Is it difficult?

2. 87a blower replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-26 14:55:03 UTC
From: ken
Topic: 2 Message: 2

Based on the lack of response, I guess no one has tackeled the job or replacing the blower. I am told by Colorado to expect $150 labor to replace the blower. Then $150 for the blower, and a bit of time for the tech to check out final operation. So I just be looking at $500 for the round trip. Anyone have any better figures or ideas?

Since this blower is just beginning to tick, it may last a long time before it has to be done. The amp has a temperature fault that could be activated if I have on the headphones and do not hear the blower stop. So it seems safe enough to continue.

3. alpha blower motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-29 02:53:20 UTC
From: ken
Topic: 3 Message: 3

I have had no input from anyone yet concerning the 87a blower motor.
Let me start again.

1. I hear a bit of noise when I shut down the amplifier. It is the blower motor coming to rest. Is this normal?
2. I am presuming this is not normal, and indicates a need to eventually replace the blower. I have the written procedure, and I have reviewed it again.
It seems simple, except there may be a need for a right angle screwdriver at one point. I will call to see about what type to get. My main worry is
replacing the screws and being able to reach everything without dropping a screw and never finding it!
3. Since a plate can be removed under the tube deck (without even opening the amplifier), I don't see why someone hasn't invented an external cooling system that feeds from the underside! It might take a bit of space but it would be eminently accessable. Maybe such an item exists?

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has had some experience with this matter, either on the forum or via email barbiekenw@....

Ken K5WK

4. Re: [Alpha87a] alpha blower motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-29 02:55:39 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 3 Message: 4

Ken,
I hate to bring up the fact, but including myself and you... we have 3 members. I am not going to be much help because I personally don't own an 87A but lets hope we can get some more guys and gals in here and get a great forum like the Alpha 9500 forum.

ken <barbiekenw@...> wrote:
I have had no input from anyone yet concerning the 87a blower motor.
Let me start again.

1. I hear a bit of noise when I shut down the amplifier. It is the blower motor coming to rest. Is this normal?
2. I am presuming this is not normal, and indicates a need to eventually replace the blower. I have the written procedure, and I have reviewed it again.
It seems simple, except there may be a need for a right angle screwdriver at one point. I will call to see about what type to get. My main worry is
replacing the screws and being able to reach everything without dropping a screw and never finding it!
3. Since a plate can be removed under the tube deck (without even opening the amplifier), I don't see why someone hasn't invented an external cooling system that feeds from the underside! It might take a bit of space but it would be eminently accessable. Maybe such an item exists?

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has had some experience with this matter, either on the forum or via email barbiekenw@....

Ken K5WK

Michael J Almeter

W4MJA

A 5WPM Know code Extra Class

Certified S.C.U.B.A. Diver

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

5. Re: alpha blower motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-29 15:04:18 UTC
From: ken
Topic: 3 Message: 5

Thanks for info. I wonder where all the 87a users have gone? There are a bunch of these amps in use. So I guess its just you and me and that fellow over there.

I looked at the amplifiers forum, and most of the posts are from "business/penis enlargement opportunities". I quickly dropped out.

I am going to make the blower change-out myself. It will give me confidence that I can handle the little chores that go with this amplifier.

Do you have a 9500? I know they have had software problems. I considered it, but bought ACOM. I am taking a "wait and see" on the 9500 for now.

Ken K5WK

6. Re: alpha blower motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-10-29 15:48:41 UTC
From: ken
Topic: 3 Message: 6

Likely my last post on this subject:

For the record, Alpha says a little noise during shutdown is normal as there is a bit of play on the shaft. Also, a bit of ticking during rotation is OK. If the motor is not seizing, don't worry about it. Some motors last 20 plus years.

If the change out is needed, the only unusual tool required is a #2 right angle philip head screwdriver, and about 4 hours of your time. No nuts will drop since all are seated.

GREAT ENGINEERING.

Ken K5WK

7. dead 87a ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-04 20:05:14 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 7 Message: 7

Hi all,
well not many members but hopefully someone will be able to help.
I have been offerd a dead 87a. The guy that owns it says it shut down on him times and he would just turn off and on again. Now it will not power up. From what I have found out so far, After so many shut downs they lock out.

Will I still be able to find out the fault codes?
Will I be able to do a CPU reset?

I should be getting it in a few days, what shall I check?

Paul G0HWC
www.g0hwc.com

8. Re: [Alpha87a] dead 87a ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-04 21:11:27 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 7 Message: 8

Welcome to the group Paul!
I am not quite sure about your questions as I don't own an 87A myself. I wounder if you have maybe contacted Alpha with this problem?

Paul Young <paul@...> wrote: Hi all,
well not many members but hopefully someone will be able to help.
I have been offerd a dead 87a. The guy that owns it says it shut down on him times and he would just turn off and on again. Now it will not power up. From what I have found out so far, After so many shut downs they lock out.

Will I still be able to find out the fault codes?
Will I be able to do a CPU reset?

I should be getting it in a few days, what shall I check?

Paul G0HWC
www.g0hwc.com

Michael J Almeter

W4MJA

A 5WPM Know code Extra Class

Certified S.C.U.B.A. Diver

Be a better sports nut! Let your teams follow you with Yahoo Mobile. Try it now.

9. Alpha 87A repair in UK?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-07 17:10:21 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 9 Message: 9

Anyone know who can repair these in the UK ?
After getting reset codes from alpha and powering up
I get codes 37 and 24

Paul G0HWC
www.g0hwc.com

10. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 18:12:08 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 10

```
Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha87aBlower.zip
Uploaded by : paulyoung004 <paul@...>
Description : Remove and replace the blower in 87A

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/Alpha87aBlower.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

paulyoung004 <paul@...>
```

11. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 18:20:24 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 11

```
Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /87amanual.pdf
Uploaded by : paulyoung004 <paul@...>
Description : Alpha 87A Manual updated with AlphaMax

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/87amanual.pdf

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

paulyoung004 <paul@...>
```

12. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 18:28:57 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 12

```
Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /hyperterminal_98_4800.zip
Uploaded by : paulyoung004 <paul@...>
Description : Hyper Terminal Win 98 (all Alpha 87a)

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/hyperterminal_98_4800.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

paulyoung004 <paul@...>
```

13. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 18:35:48 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 13

```
Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /hyperterminal_xp_4800.zip
Uploaded by : paulyoung004 <paul@...>
Description : Hyper Terminal Win XP

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/hyperterminal_xp_4800.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

paulyoung004 <paul@...>
```

14. New files & promote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 18:59:34 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 14 Message: 14

Hi Guys,

I have uploaded all the files I have for the 87A.
I hope they are of use so some of you.

I also put a note of the group in a few AMP newsgroups
hopefully it will get some new members

Paul G0HWC
www.sstv.org.uk / www.g0hwc.com

15. Re: [Alpha87a] New files & promote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-18 19:36:47 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 14 Message: 15

Paul thanks,
I run the Alpha 9500 group and that right there is a lot. Thanks.

Paul Young <paul@...> wrote:
Hi Guys,

I have uploaded all the files I have for the 87A.
I hope they are of use so some of you.

I also put a note of the group in a few AMP newsgroups
hopefully it will get some new members

Paul G0HWC
www.sstv.org.uk / www.g0hwc.com

Michael J Almeter

W4MJA

A 5WPM Know code Extra Class

Certified S.C.U.B.A. Diver

Looking for last minute shopping deals? Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.

16. Alpha control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-20 12:08:01 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 16 Message: 16

Hi all,
anyone know of a 3rd party program to connect to the 87A
that has a better display than the AlphaRemote software.

The software that comes with the AlphaMax upgrade covers all
the bases but the display for the 4 meters is real poor.

Paul G0HWC

www.sstv.org.uk / www.g0hwc.com

17. A other remote control program for the Alpha 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-20 14:14:12 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 17 Message: 17

The program includes:

- Remote control of the Alpha 87a
for Kenwood and FT-2000 TRX also a link
to DX4Win and the TRX Manager log program.

- Failure description in case of hard or soft faults.

- Terminal function (Hyperterminal)
to communicate with the Alpha.

For the description and the program download
please check the file area.

Walter, HB9ZS

18. Group's owner's message

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-20 22:09:44 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 18 Message: 18

Hello,
I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Michael Almeter, W4MJA. I am the owner of the Alpha 9500 yahoo group and the Alpha 87A group. The purpose I started these groups is to help Alpha owners resolve problems with their amps or just talk to other Alpha 87A owners.

A bit about me! I hold an Amateur Extra class license and work all modes (CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31) along with VHF and UHF. I was first licensed in 2005 as KI4MIU and enjoy the hobby very much. My station consists of a Kenwood TS-570D(G), Ameritron AL-811A, a 2 element W6SAI Quad, and various wire antenna's. And no I did not leave anything out! I don't own an Alpha amplifier! I started these groups as it's for right now the closest I will get to owning an Alpha.

Any problems with the group? Shoot me an e-mail and I will fix it right away!

Thanks,
Mike
W4MJA
Marietta GA

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

19. Re: A other remote control program for the Alpha 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-21 15:57:36 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 17 Message: 19

This is a nice program, but it has some special requirements and may not work for everyone. Also, it doesn't have meter displays, just display of the individual measurement numbers.

If your amp is remote to your operating position, but is in the same building, you can do what I did: build a remote LED meter. The 87A has analog outputs on the back for RF PWR OUT and GRID CURRENT. They are compatible with LED dot-bar graph ICs that are readily available. It just takes a handful of parts and a bunch of rectangular LEDs to make remote meters that look just like the ones on the 87A front panel.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
>
> The program includes:
>
> - Remote control of the Alpha 87a
> for Kenwood and FT-2000 TRX also a link
> to DX4Win and the TRX Manager log program.
>
> - Failure description in case of hard or soft faults.
>
> - Terminal function (Hyperterminal)
> to communicate with the Alpha.
>
> For the description and the program download
> please check the file area.
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>

20. Format of HEX code from AlphaMax to comp??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-21 19:06:47 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 20 Message: 20

Hi all,
Well It looks like the only 3rd party control program
for the amp is by Walter HB9ZS.
He would like to add power meter ETC to his program but
he needs to know the format of the HEX code going from amp to
computer when AlphaMax it turned on.

A few hams have asked Alpha for the data needed but
nothing to date.

Can anyone help ???

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

21. Fault 37 ????????

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-22 16:11:19 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 21 Message: 21

I am getting Fault 37 (band switch not moving) from time to time.

Where is the problem likley to be?
With the stepper motor, The contacts on the band change
wafer or a control problem?

Anyone else had this problem

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

22. Re: Fault 37 ????????

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-23 14:48:57 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 21 Message: 22

Hi Paul

For each motor control there is a opto coupler to detect the
position of the band switch waver.
Please clean the opto coupler on both side
transmitter and receiver)
It is a small black piece.
Good luck.

Merry Christmas
Vy 73 Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> I am getting Fault 37 (band switch not moving) from time to time.
>
> Where is the problem likley to be?
> With the stepper motor, The contacts on the band change
> wafer or a control problem?
>
> Anyone else had this problem
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

23. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 37 ????????

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-23 15:07:14 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 21 Message: 23

Thanks for that Walter,
I will do that. But why should this error come up while on
20m and since having this amp it has only been used on 14:230. +/- 3k

Cheers
Paul G0HWC

----- Original Message -----
From: hb9zs
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 2:48 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 37 ????????

Hi Paul

For each motor control there is a opto coupler to detect the
position of the band switch waver.
Please clean the opto coupler on both side
transmitter and receiver)
It is a small black piece.
Good luck.

Merry Christmas
Vy 73 Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> I am getting Fault 37 (band switch not moving) from time to time.
>
> Where is the problem likley to be?
> With the stepper motor, The contacts on the band change
> wafer or a control problem?
>
> Anyone else had this problem
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.17.6/1193 - Release Date: 22/12/2007 14:02

24. Re: Fault 37 ????????

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-23 15:48:09 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 21 Message: 24

Paul
If you switch on the amplifier the motors are running
to the "start of position" (end position).
From this point the opto coupler is counting up the steps
from the end position (each for C1, L or C2 of the specific Band).
If the memorized steps for that band are equal to the positioning
steps of the motor, the motor stops.

If the opto couplers are dirty the control unit can't
count the steps.

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Thanks for that Walter,
> I will do that. But why should this
error come up while on
> 20m and since having this amp it has only been used on 14:230. +/-
3k
>
> Cheers
> Paul G0HWC
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: hb9zs
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sunday, December 23, 2007 2:48 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 37 ????????
>
>
>
> Hi Paul
>
> For each motor control there is a opto coupler to detect the
> position of the band switch waver.
> Please clean the opto coupler on both side
> transmitter and receiver)
> It is a small black piece.
> Good luck.
>
> Merry Christmas
> Vy 73 Walter, HB9ZS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@> wrote:

> >
> > I am getting Fault 37 (band switch not moving) from time to
time.
> >
> > Where is the problem likley to be?
> > With the stepper motor, The contacts on the band change
> > wafer or a control problem?
> >
> > Anyone else had this problem
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> >
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> ----------

>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG Free Edition.
> Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.17.6/1193 - Release Date:
22/12/2007 14:02
>

25. Re: Fault 37 ????????

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-23 18:29:11 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 21 Message: 25

I've had this happen a few times. I don't know what causes it. I usually cycle the band switch several times through its entire travel and then the fault goes away. I suspect in my case the band switch is sticking. It might need some sort of lubrication, but I don't know what to use. Probably a very light application of lithium grease. Best to check with Alpha on that.

Here's another possibility: I believe there's an optical sensor on the band switch and it might be getting dirty from dust inside the cabinet.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> I am getting Fault 37 (band switch not moving) from time to time.
>
> Where is the problem likley to be?
> With the stepper motor, The contacts on the band change
> wafer or a control problem?
>
> Anyone else had this problem
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

26. Left Load Button Light Blinks

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-24 17:17:52 UTC
From: K2WK
Topic: 26 Message: 26

Hey all,

I notice that the left Load control Button Light blinks most of the time. According to the manual, that indicates that the Load Cap is at its maximum capacitance. I know thins to not bet the case as I can manually adjust the cap.

Anyone have any clues as to why this is happening.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

27. Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-24 17:27:22 UTC
From: K2WK
Topic: 27 Message: 27

Should the autotune function always be engaged, i.e. the Default light always blinking? I am having an awful time deciding whether the function actually works. The documentation, i.e. the manual, leaves me puzzled after reading it several times.

Any help would be most gratefully appreciated.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

Ho, ho, ho & HNY.

28. Re: [Alpha87a] Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-24 17:54:38 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 27 Message: 28

Hi Walt,
I have just installed the AlphaMax in my 87A
If the mains power is removed, next time I turn mine on the
Autotune is off by default, If your (default) is blinking it is ON.
You would be best to plug a computer into the amp and you
can see what it is doing, this is what I do.

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com / http://www.sstv.org.uk

----- Original Message -----
From: K2WK
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 5:27 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Autotune?

Should the autotune function always be engaged, i.e. the Default

light always blinking? I am having an awful time deciding whether

the function actually works. The documentation, i.e. the manual,

leaves me puzzled after reading it several times.

Any help would be most gratefully appreciated.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

Ho, ho, ho & HNY.

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.17.7/1194 - Release Date: 23/12/2007 17:27

29. Re: [Alpha87a] Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-24 18:13:53 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 27 Message: 29

I just noticed you had also said that you was not sure if the function was working?

If you have a atu connected to the amp, and adjust the tune/load a bit,
the Autotune on the amp should try to adjust itself.
I use mine on SSTV and if I turn the drive up it will autotune.

Paul G0HWC

----- Original Message -----
From: K2WK
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, December 24, 2007 5:27 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Autotune?

Should the autotune function always be engaged, i.e. the Default

light always blinking? I am having an awful time deciding whether

the function actually works. The documentation, i.e. the manual,

leaves me puzzled after reading it several times.

Any help would be most gratefully appreciated.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

Ho, ho, ho & HNY.

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.17.7/1194 - Release Date: 23/12/2007 17:27

30. Re: [Alpha87a] Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-25 00:57:21 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 27 Message: 30

Walt

I have two 87As and have not found a reason to turn the auto-tune OFF.

Tom K4XG

**********See AOL's top rated recipes
(http://food.aol.com/top-rated-recipes?NCID=aoltop00030000000004)

31. Re: Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-25 17:04:50 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 27 Message: 31

Hi Tim,
Is it normal for it to default to off of the amp has
been unpluged from the mains ?

And I don't understand why anyonw whould ever want to turn
AlphaMax off..

Paul G0HWC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Walt
>
> I have two 87As and have not found a reason to turn the auto-tune OFF.
>
> Tom K4XG
>
>
>
> **********See AOL's top rated recipes
> (http://food.aol.com/top-rated-recipes?NCID=aoltop00030000000004)
>

32. Re: Autotune?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-25 21:18:24 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 27 Message: 32

Hi Paul

As soon as the alpha is plugged to the mains, the control voltage
are on (microprocessor is powered) but the power switch is "off".
So the microprocessor is in operation. If you unplug the Alpha
from the mains, the "auto tune" Information "On" will be no longer
available. Its not information which will be stored in a memory
of the Alpha.

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Tim,
> Is it normal for it to default to off of the amp has
> been unpluged from the mains ?
>
> And I don't understand why anyonw whould ever want to turn
> AlphaMax off..
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@ wrote:
> >
> > Walt
> >
> > I have two 87As and have not found a reason to turn the auto-tune
OFF.
> >
> > Tom K4XG
> >
> >
> >
> > **********See AOL's top rated recipes
> > (http://food.aol.com/top-rated-recipes?NCID=aoltop00030000000004)
> >
>

33. Confused ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-31 16:58:34 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 33 Message: 33

Hi all,
Im a bit confused. I own a Alpha 87A and a 76A,
In the Tech manual for the 87A it says to connect the amp to
your transceiver with 72 inch long coax, and in the 76A it says
to use as short as possible preferably not longer than 2 1/2 to 3 feet.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

PS: All the best for 2008

PPS: anyone got a spare power on button for a 76A ?

34. Re: [Alpha87a] Confused ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2007-12-31 21:24:22 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 33 Message: 34

Paul,
Have you tried to contact Alpha directly on this issue? They are very nice people and I am sure could answer your questions.

Mike
W4MJA
Alpha 87A Yahoo Group Owner
Paul Young <paul@...> wrote: Hi all,
Im a bit confused. I own a Alpha 87A and a 76A,
In the Tech manual for the 87A it says to connect the amp to
your transceiver with 72 inch long coax, and in the 76A it says
to use as short as possible preferably not longer than 2 1/2 to 3 feet.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

PS: All the best for 2008

PPS: anyone got a spare power on button for a 76A ?

Looking for last minute shopping deals? Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.

35. Re: Confused ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 01:15:50 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 33 Message: 35

The 87A uses a tuned input so the cable between the rig and amp is not too critical, though it's usually wise to keep it short. Perhaps the 76 used an untuned input. If so, long cables can present a complex impedance to the tranceiver's output causing drive power fold-back.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> Im a bit confused. I own a Alpha 87A and a 76A,
> In the Tech manual for the 87A it says to connect the amp to
> your transceiver with 72 inch long coax, and in the 76A it says
> to use as short as possible preferably not longer than 2 1/2 to 3
feet.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
> PS: All the best for 2008
>
> PPS: anyone got a spare power on button for a 76A ?
>

36. Re: Confused ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 17:31:31 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 33 Message: 36

I've found that Alpha's advice for the 87A is correct. The cable needs to be at least 72 inches long. Shorter cables result in high input SWR on some bands. My run is probably about 10 feet because the amp is located in the basement below my shack. It works OK, but the SWR on some bands is a little higher than I'd like. My past experience has been that a little experimentation with a slightly longer/shorter cable will result in a better match.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> Im a bit confused. I own a Alpha 87A and a 76A,
> In the Tech manual for the 87A it says to connect the amp to
> your transceiver with 72 inch long coax, and in the 76A it says
> to use as short as possible preferably not longer than 2 1/2 to 3
feet.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
> PS: All the best for 2008
>
> PPS: anyone got a spare power on button for a 76A ?
>

37. Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 20:43:23 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 37 Message: 37

I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to better understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.

I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo). What's it purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.

Also, any items to check before making the purchase?

Kwn-W9KB

38. Re: [Alpha87a] Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 20:45:43 UTC
From: Marco PE2MC
Topic: 37 Message: 38

HI is voor SSB mode
LO is voor CW mode.

HI and LO is to ajust the HV on the Tubs

Greetz Marco PE2MC

W9KB - Ken Bills schreef:
>
> I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I
> downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to better
> understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
>
> I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo). What's it
> purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
>
> Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
>
> Kwn-W9KB
>
>
>
> _____ NOD32 2759 (20080101) Information _____
>
> This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
> http://www.eset.com

39. Re: [Alpha87a] Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 20:51:49 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 37 Message: 39

Hi Kwn,
the hi/low is for the HV (plate voltage) but everyone says to
keep this on high, and if you read some forums users say using the
amp on low can cause problems? So not sure why is is there?

That aside, its a excellent amp

As for things to check: make sure that at 1.5kw that the grid current
is within 20-50ma

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2008 8:43 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Mode Switch

I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I
downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to better
understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.

I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo). What's it
purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.

Also, any items to check before making the purchase?

Kwn-W9KB

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.17.13/1205 - Release Date: 31/12/2007 15:32

40. Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 21:48:42 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 37 Message: 40

It has no function and *must* always be in the HI position. It was aparently included to meet type approval for some country or other, but using it in the LO position can overstress the transformer.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W9KB - Ken Bills" <kbills@...> wrote:
>
> I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I
> downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to better
> understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
>
> I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo). What's it
> purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
>
> Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
>
> Kwn-W9KB
>

41. Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 21:50:33 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 37 Message: 41

Wrong Worng Wrong! Using LO can cost you a transformer. Don't do it!
I've had this discussion with Alpha, and I'm repeating what I was
told.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Marco PE2MC <Marco@...> wrote:
>
> HI is voor SSB mode
> LO is voor CW mode.
>
> HI and LO is to ajust the HV on the Tubs
>
> Greetz Marco PE2MC
>
>
> W9KB - Ken Bills schreef:
> >
> > I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I
> > downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to
better
> > understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
> >
> > I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo).
What's it
> > purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
> >
> > Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
> >
> > Kwn-W9KB
> >
> >
> >
> > _____ NOD32 2759 (20080101) Information _____
> >
> > This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
> > http://www.eset.com
>

42. Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-01 22:11:08 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 37 Message: 42

BTW, excuse the emphatic refutation Marco... it's just that the people at Alpha told me that operating the amplifier in the LO position could "damage the transformer"... which I assume would be a very expensive repair! I had called them because I had noticed my transformer would hum in the lo power position even at 500W output and was wondering if it was "normal"...

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> Wrong Worng Wrong! Using LO can cost you a transformer. Don't do
it!
> I've had this discussion with Alpha, and I'm repeating what I was
> told.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Marco PE2MC <Marco@> wrote:
> >
> > HI is voor SSB mode
> > LO is voor CW mode.
> >
> > HI and LO is to ajust the HV on the Tubs
> >
> > Greetz Marco PE2MC
> >
> >
> > W9KB - Ken Bills schreef:
> > >
> > > I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham.
I
> > > downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to
> better
> > > understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
> > >
> > > I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo).
> What's it
> > > purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
> > >
> > > Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
> > >
> > > Kwn-W9KB
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > _____ NOD32 2759 (20080101) Information _____
> > >

> > > This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
> > > http://www.eset.com
> >
>

43. Transporting 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-03 03:05:46 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 43 Message: 43

I plan to purchase and pickup a 87A from a local ham (300 miles round trip). What is the prevailing opinion regarding transformer/tube removal? I plan to place it on a 4" foam pad, wrapped in a shipping blanket and secured on the rear seat cushion with straps.

Sound adequate?

Ken-W9KB

44. RE: [Alpha87a] Transporting 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-03 03:47:51 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 43 Message: 44

I moved my Alpha 89 about 1000 miles packed the same way with no problems.

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W9KB - Ken Bills
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 10:06 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Transporting 87A

I plan to purchase and pickup a 87A from a local ham (300 miles round trip). What is the prevailing opinion regarding transformer/tube removal? I plan to place it on a 4" foam pad, wrapped in a shipping blanket and secured on the rear seat cushion with straps.

Sound adequate?

Ken-W9KB

45. Re: Transporting 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-03 13:57:54 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 43 Message: 45

Removing the transformer and tubes is only necessary to protect the package from shock. Just don't drop it ;-)

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W9KB - Ken Bills" <kbills@...> wrote:
>
> I plan to purchase and pickup a 87A from a local ham (300 miles round
> trip). What is the prevailing opinion regarding transformer/tube
> removal? I plan to place it on a 4" foam pad, wrapped in a shipping
> blanket and secured on the rear seat cushion with straps.
>
> Sound adequate?
>
> Ken-W9KB
>

46. Transport of ALPHA-87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-04 20:31:11 UTC
From: gbeuche
Topic: 46 Message: 46

Hi everybody,
handcarrying this unit can lead to distorting the cabinet due to uneven weight/mass-distribution including putting too much mechanical stress on components. I have been transporting the 87a and 89 on a strong wooden shelf with aluminum angle stock along the 4 sides to prevent slipping of the amp plus 2 strong ropes going thru 2 holes and leaving a loop on each side for 2 persons to carry. Putting all this on suitable thick sheets of foam and securing with straps or seat-belts provides secure transport.
vy 73, Gunter, DL6AB

47. Re: Transporting 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-04 21:23:38 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 43 Message: 47

I recently transported my 87A about 100 miles to get it repaired by an Alpha technician who was visiting the area. Alpha recommended that I remove the transformer before transporting the amp. They said leaving it installed risks deformation of the chassis. I think the odds of this happening are reduced with the cover in place, but I wasn't going to take any chances. It's not difficult to remove the transformer, and it's a lot easier to carry the amp and transformer separately. It's not necessary to remove the tubes for the car ride, but I would check to make sure they're properly seated before plugging in the amp when you get it home.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> Removing the transformer and tubes is only necessary to protect the
> package from shock. Just don't drop it ;-)
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W9KB - Ken Bills" <kbills@> wrote:
> >
> > I plan to purchase and pickup a 87A from a local ham (300 miles
round
> > trip). What is the prevailing opinion regarding transformer/tube
> > removal? I plan to place it on a 4" foam pad, wrapped in a shipping
> > blanket and secured on the rear seat cushion with straps.
> >
> > Sound adequate?
> >
> > Ken-W9KB
> >
>

48. Re: Transporting 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-04 22:33:00 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 43 Message: 48

```
>it's a lot easier to carry the amp and transformer separately

Good point!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Dick Green" <wc1m@...> wrote:
>
> I recently transported my 87A about 100 miles to get it....
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
```

49. unsubscribe

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-05 16:02:28 UTC
From: limoncino99@aol.com
Topic: 49 Message: 49

[Body unavailable in the source archive]

51. Need Picture of Output T/R board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-12 19:00:31 UTC
From: brianmo
Topic: 51 Message: 51

I apparently have a 'down level' amplifier (one that's not had all current modifications), and while I've received a nice bag of parts from Alpha to get my amp current (and fix the problem I started with), would appreciate a digital picture of the board to make sure I have the components placed correctly.

The board in question is the OUTPUT T/R board, containing the receive PIN diodes (the ones that fail with 'error code 1', which is the only reason I opened the amp). It's located near the rear panel, viewable with the cover of the amplifier off.

If *you* want a picture of one in the 'downlevel' configuration, let me know.

Thanks
Brian N9ADG

52. Antenna Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-13 17:10:09 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 52 Message: 52

I am aquiring a 87A to replace a VL1000. The VL1000 has 4 output connectors which mnade running the amp to three antennas very simple. The 87A of course only has one output connector. I know at one time Alpha made a digital antenna switch, but that has long been discontinued.

Any thoughts on the best automatic switch to use with the Alpha (Microham, Top-Ten etc)?

73

Tim

53. Re: Antenna Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-14 15:06:08 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 52 Message: 53

I use a Microham decoder and Array Solutions switches which are very
well built

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve6sh" <ve6sh@...> wrote:
>
> I am aquiring a 87A to replace a VL1000. The VL1000 has 4 output
> connectors which mnade running the amp to three antennas very simple.
> The 87A of course only has one output connector. I know at one time
> Alpha made a digital antenna switch, but that has long been
> discontinued.
>
> Any thoughts on the best automatic switch to use with the Alpha
> (Microham, Top-Ten etc)?
>
> 73
>
> Tim
>

54. Re: Antenna Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-14 15:13:25 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 52 Message: 54

Array solutions has a new decoder available that wasn't available
when I bought my Microham decoder. Might be worth a look also...

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> I use a Microham decoder and Array Solutions switches which are
very
> well built
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve6sh" <ve6sh@> wrote:
> >
> > I am aquiring a 87A to replace a VL1000. The VL1000 has 4 output
> > connectors which mnade running the amp to three antennas very
simple.
> > The 87A of course only has one output connector. I know at one
time
> > Alpha made a digital antenna switch, but that has long been
> > discontinued.
> >
> > Any thoughts on the best automatic switch to use with the Alpha
> > (Microham, Top-Ten etc)?
> >
> > 73
> >
> > Tim
> >
>

55. Case screws

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-15 02:45:07 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 55 Message: 55

Today, I took delivery of my 'new' Alpha 87A. I followed the conservative advice of 51% of those that responded to my previous post regarding shipping with or without the transformer installed. Molly at Alpha strongly recommended removal as well (and her vote counted twice!).

New question, how do I remove the one stubborn screw that I managed to shear? (Easy out, drill & pray etc.) All the others strongly protested, but eventually gave up. Of course it's located in the top front right most obvious position.

Any thoughts?

Ken-W9KB

56. Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-18 19:26:32 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 56 Message: 56

Over the years, ETO and Alpha have published suggested input cable lengths for several amplifiers including the 87A.

Can anyone send me the suggested length for the 87A and similar info fro other Alpha amps?

Also , I have really never understood this. The input circuits for these amps have circuits which are to some extent adjustable and which are supposed to provide a 50 input match across the band selected. I assume the specified input length is an attempt to provide a better input match on all bands, but that doesn't square with the 50 ohm input networks. Can someone explain why the length of the input cable matters. I know from personal experience that it does.

73

Bob W2WG

57. Re: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-18 20:01:08 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 56 Message: 57

Hi Bob,
In my 87a manual it says supplied lead is 72" long
but in my 76 manual it says to keep as short as you can !!!

I also asked about this a while ago.. Still unsure of why this is?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Carroll
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 7:26 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Over the years, ETO and Alpha have published suggested input cable lengths for several amplifiers including the 87A.

Can anyone send me the suggested length for the 87A and similar info fro other Alpha amps?

Also , I have really never understood this. The input circuits for these amps have circuits which are to some extent adjustable and which are supposed to provide a 50 input match across the band selected. I assume the specified input length is an attempt to provide a better input match on all bands, but that doesn't square with the 50 ohm input networks. Can someone explain why the length of the input cable matters. I know from personal experience that it does.

73

Bob W2WG

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.5/1228 - Release Date: 16/01/2008 09:01

58. RE: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-18 20:23:52 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 56 Message: 58

Paul-

Thanks. I am all ears for an answer.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Paul Young
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 3:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Hi Bob,

In my 87a manual it says supplied lead is 72" long

but in my 76 manual it says to keep as short as you can !!!

I also asked about this a while ago.. Still unsure of why this is?

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc. <http://www.g0hwc.com> com

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert Carroll <mailto:w2wg@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 7:26 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Over the years, ETO and Alpha have published suggested input cable lengths
for several amplifiers including the 87A.

Can anyone send me the suggested length for the 87A and similar info fro
other Alpha amps?

Also , I have really never understood this. The input circuits for these
amps have circuits which are to some extent adjustable and which are
supposed to provide a 50 input match across the band selected. I assume the
specified input length is an attempt to provide a better input match on all
bands, but that doesn't square with the 50 ohm input networks. Can someone
explain why the length of the input cable matters. I know from personal

experience that it does.

73

Bob W2WG

---

size=2 width="100%" align=center>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.5/1228 - Release Date: 16/01/2008
09:01

59. RE: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-19 13:21:54 UTC
From: K2WK
Topic: 56 Message: 59

Yes, according to the manual:

"Connect the transceiver RF output to the ALPHA 87A RF INPUT with 50 ohm coaxial cable - RG-58C/U or equivalent. A 6 ft. cable is supplied for this purpose."

I believe RG58C/U has a velocity factor of 0.66.

I'm using 6' of RG-8X, which ostensibly has a VF of .795, which is 27% shorter
than the specified length. My RG-8X should be 86" long. I'm seeing an SWR of 1.5:1 to a high of 2:1 on 160-30M, on the SWR meter in the rig.

I'm going to cut a new length of cable with a VF of 0.66 to (hopefully) lower
the SWR the rig sees.

73 de Walt - K2WK

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Robert Carroll
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 3:24 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Paul-

Thanks. I am all ears for an answer.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Young
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 3:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Hi Bob,

In my 87a manual it says supplied lead is 72" long

but in my 76 manual it says to keep as short as you can !!!

I also asked about this a while ago.. Still unsure of why this is?

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>

----- Original Message -----

From: Robert Carroll <mailto:w2wg@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 7:26 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Cable Length for Amplifier Input

Over the years, ETO and Alpha have published suggested input cable lengths for several amplifiers including the 87A.

Can anyone send me the suggested length for the 87A and similar info fro other Alpha amps?

Also , I have really never understood this. The input circuits for these amps have circuits which are to some extent adjustable and which are supposed to provide a 50 input match across the band selected. I assume the specified input length is an attempt to provide a better input match on all bands, but that doesn't square with the 50 ohm input networks. Can someone explain why the length of the input cable matters. I know from personal experience that it does.

73

Bob W2WG

---

size=2 width="100%" align=center>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.5/1228 - Release Date: 16/01/2008 09:01

60. Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-21 18:28:09 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 37 Message: 60

Could someone explain why Alpha put such a dangerous "Lo" switch on
the front panel?

Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> Wrong Worng Wrong! Using LO can cost you a transformer. Don't do
it!
> I've had this discussion with Alpha, and I'm repeating what I was
> told.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Marco PE2MC <Marco@> wrote:
> >
> > HI is voor SSB mode
> > LO is voor CW mode.
> >
> > HI and LO is to ajust the HV on the Tubs
> >
> > Greetz Marco PE2MC
> >
> >
> > W9KB - Ken Bills schreef:
> > >
> > > I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham.
I
> > > downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to
> better
> > > understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
> > >
> > > I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo).
> What's it
> > > purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
> > >
> > > Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
> > >
> > > Kwn-W9KB
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > _____ NOD32 2759 (20080101) Information _____
> > >
> > > This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.

> > > http://www.eset.com
> >
>

61. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-21 19:06:29 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 37 Message: 61

I asked this question of Glenn, one of the techs, and he told me that at the time they were forced to do so because of some questionable vague FCC language. On the other hand, I don't recall a non-Alpha amp with such a setting. The switch appears at least as far back as the Alpha 86.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of jsternmd
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2008 1:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Mode Switch

Could someone explain why Alpha put such a dangerous "Lo" switch on the front panel?

Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> Wrong Worng Wrong! Using LO can cost you a transformer. Don't do it!
> I've had this discussion with Alpha, and I'm repeating what I was
> told.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, Marco PE2MC <Marco@> wrote:
> >
> > HI is voor SSB mode
> > LO is voor CW mode.
> >
> > HI and LO is to ajust the HV on the Tubs
> >
> > Greetz Marco PE2MC
> >
> >
> > W9KB - Ken Bills schreef:
> > >
> > > I am considering purchasing a used 87A from a fellow local ham. I

> > > downloaded the user's manual from the group file section, to
> better
> > > understand it's operation vs. my Alpha 99.
> > >
> > > I am a bit confused by the front panel mode switch (Hi/Lo).
> What's it
> > > purpose? I could not find any decription in the manual.
> > >
> > > Also, any items to check before making the purchase?
> > >
> > > Kwn-W9KB
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > _____ NOD32 2759 (20080101) Information _____
> > >
> > > This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
> > > http://www.eset. <http://www.eset.com> com
> >
>

62. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-21 19:09:19 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 37 Message: 62

I should add that you will not succeed at getting 1.5KW out on cw with the switch in the cw position, but in addition to the transformer you may send a tube to its grave if you get the amp up to about 1 kw out.

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of jsternmd
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2008 1:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Mode Switch

Could someone explain why Alpha put such a dangerous "Lo" switch on the front panel?

Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
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>

63. Alpha Site Tube Warning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-21 21:50:24 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 63 Message: 63

Recently I took a look at the Alpha web site for the first time in a year or so, and I saw a warning from Molly about Alpha 87 warrantees being voided if you use a 3CX800 or a 3CPX800 tube pair (and the 99 and 91B being damaged by similarly non-pedigree tubes). She went on to say that only the Eimac screened low drive matched YC-238 pairs were to be used. She warns of a risk of catastrophic damage to the amp. This strikes me a lot of the old warnings that you should use only RCA tubes in an RCA 5 tube All American and Philco tubes in a Philco set. I suspect very few Alpha 87A's or an 89 or 86 (both of which I have) would still be under warranty by the time the tubes went, so I am doubly suspicious of the warning. What is the opinion of the group on this? You of course never know what you are going to get from a tube bought off the internet, but why would use of a 3CX800A7 or PCX lead to catastrophic amplifier damage? Has anyone on this list experienced catastrophic damage? My 86 is on its original set of tubes and they don't feel tired, but the amp is over 10 years old, and sometime in the foreseeable future I am going to need to replace them. Do I need to buy only premium pedigree premium markup tubes from Alpha?

Bob W2WG

64. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Mode Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-22 04:41:19 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 37 Message: 64

Bob and others,

Not to doubt Alpha, because they build one hell of an amp, but I ran my 87a for about 2 months because it would not run in high without going into a fault. Now I did not push it past legal limit on SSB, but it worked great and I still have the original tubes, did not see any problems in normal operation for the past 3 or 4 years. So I don't know the engineering behind not to use the lower voltage setting..

Just my experience, your mileage my vary!! :-)

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

At 01:09 PM 1/21/2008, Robert Carroll wrote:

>I should add that you will not succeed at getting 1.5KW out on cw
>with the switch in the cw position, but in addition to the
>transformer you may send a tube to its grave if you get the amp up
>to about 1 kw out.
>
>
>
>Bob W2WG
>
>
>
>----------
>From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
>Behalf Of jsternmd
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>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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>

65. Alpha 87 A No Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-27 23:18:52 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 65 Message: 65

I have just received an Alpha 87A. I cannot seem to get power to the Amp! I replaced the 220V male plug (verified I have 220V at the outlet), checked all 3 fuses and the AC cord, but the amp does not power up. I cannot even use Hyperterm to communicate with the amp as the microprocessor also appears to have no power.

Crowbar appears to work ok (I can hear it close when I install the cover).

Any ideas?

73

Tim VE6SH

66. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 A No Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-28 00:47:48 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 65 Message: 66

Tim,
You said you checked 3 fuses. These must be F1-F2, the two primary
(back panel) plus the step-start fuse F4 which
is located on top of the AC module-- right? That leaves only F3
which is a little trickier to check-- it is down
inside the AC module. I recall it's easier to access if the
transformer is out. If F3 is open, the little power supply
which supplies voltage to the microprocessor won't work, nor will
there be voltage to the coils of the step-start
relays. So you need to verify that F3 is working.

I recall working on mine last year, and noticing that the schematic
says F3 is 0.5 amp, but when I got in there the fuse
was actually 0.1 amp (I think...), and the board was stamped "0.1"
also... not sure now by memory, but watch for
a discrepancy there.

By the way, in order to be certain that SW-1 (interlock AC switch on
top of bulkhead) is fully closed, the top cover has to
be fully screwed down in the area of the central bulkhead. That is
the click you should hear, as the switch operates as
the cover presses down.
The crowbar you mentioned is really the HV crowbar, consisting of the
springy stainless steel tab thingie also visible
on the top edge of the bulkhead. That "switch" doesn't really make a
click-sound as you put the cover on.

Have you got an Op Manual and schematic set for the amp? The
schematic set has to be requested separately, if
your previous owner didn't have it.

Let us know your results. I have an 87A with a similar symptom as
yours and I haven't had the time yet to go into the
AC module to check F3. Of course, if F3 is bad, we then have to find
out why. ;-)

73, Glenn K6NA

At 03:18 PM 1/27/2008, you wrote:

>I have just received an Alpha 87A. I cannot seem to get power to the
>Amp! I replaced the 220V male plug (verified I have 220V at the
>outlet), checked all 3 fuses and the AC cord, but the amp does not
>power up. I cannot even use Hyperterm to communicate with the amp as
>the microprocessor also appears to have no power.
>
>Crowbar appears to work ok (I can hear it close when I install the

>cover).
>
>Any ideas?
>
>73
>
>Tim VE6SH

67. Re: Alpha 87 A No Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-30 22:42:03 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 65 Message: 67

The one fuse I will try and check tonight is F3, which Glenn has pointed out is in the AC module (and not the step-start fuse I had thought was in fact F3). I gather the transformer has to be removed to get at the fuse, but can anyone point to where the fuse is located exactly? Is it on the AC module board or somewhere else?

Thanks.

68. Re: Alpha 87 A No Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-01-31 05:17:48 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 65 Message: 68

On Glenn's suggestion I removed the AC module to check fuse F3. The instructions to remove the module are found in the "blower replacement instructions" in the files section (helpfully posted by Paul Young), but it was very simple (2 screws above and below the AC cord and a nut just below the crowbar switch).

The fuse was fine. I was about to give up, but decided to give it one more shot. Reinstalled F3, then the AC module and the transformer. The amp fired up!

The only thing I can think of is F3 did not like the trip to sunny Alberta and just needed to be reseated (although it was tricky to remove).

Thanks to Gelnn and Paul for their assistance.

73

Tim VE6SH

69. Alpha 87A and DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-03 02:05:49 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 69 Message: 69

I am using an Alpha DAS with an Arraysolutions RATPAK to switch among 3 antennas. DAS works fine manually (other the the "A" or "7" LED remains lit but I take it that is supposed to be the case?).

I have hooked the DAS to the Alpha using the correct cables and set the DIP switches as called for in the manual. (S1 on, S2 off). I have tried to program the Alpha and the DAS as called for in the manual. Using Hypertermianl it appears the antennas have been programmed (ie: "BAND" command on each band indicates the proper antenna assignment for each band). The only trouble is the DAS does not change the antenna switch (the LED does not change nor does the relay activate). The DAS switches on and off with the Alpha.

Any ideas? Is the "A" LED on the DAS upposed to be lit all the time?

Thanks

Tim VE6SH

70. soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-05 16:00:58 UTC
From: Louis Wulfekuhler
Topic: 70 Message: 70

Good morning to the group and please help if you can on the following problem. I know that this is an Alpha 87 group, but I have an Alpha 89. It has performed flawlessly over the past year with intermittent use.

I don't run more than 75 watts on average, but when I'm net control for the Feld Hellschreiber Club 40 meter net or when I'm running 80 meter SSTV, I'll put out 350 - 500 watts. Last week, the amp was running just fine putting out 350 watts during the 40 meter net. On my last transmission, when the transmitter's (Yaesu FT-1000mp Mk-V) 20 watt drive ended, I got a soft fault within less than a second after the amp switched to receive mode. It reset properly but while in receive mode, within 15 seconds of resetting, it faulted again. I'll wait the 3 minute warm up, the "wait" signal clears, but in 15 seconds or less, the same fault happens again. If I try to transmit, I'll get plenty of power out, but the second I'm off the key, etc., it immediately faults again. I have never had a hard fault.

When the soft fault first occurred, I noticed the tune/load lamps and the LEDs brightened. Also, the LED in "tune" mode has shifted way to the right whence before it has always started close to the center of the LED bar. The LED's appear to be between 2.8 - 2.9 kV. The plate current reads zero under no drive from the transmitter. I run the amp easy on the grid current, perhaps 15 mA rather than the 30 - 55 mA as depicted in the manual because the output, when so driven with 20 watts and 30 mA Ig, is around 600 to 800 watts; that output is nearing/exceeding my antenna's input limits. I hope I haven't damaged anything by running lite on the grid current. I've opened her up and found no odd odors or what has appeared to be fried circuitry. I stayed away from the electrolytic caps because I got popped once while working on a Heathkit SB200 and am now a little timid.

I emailed Alpha because they are charging $100/hr for a telephone consultation but after 1.5 weeks, I've heard nada.

Anything sound familiar? The manual states low bias could be a cause?

Thank you for any assistance.

- Louis, W8LEW

71. Re: [Alpha87a] soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-05 16:13:23 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 70 Message: 71

Louis

I cannot help you with your Alpha 89 problem as I have never owned that amplifier. I do own 2 Alpha 87As.

Your comment about Alpha charging $100 per hour for consulting was a real shocker. I cannot imagine any customer oriented business charging me a consulting fee if I am having a problem with their product. Your insight has me reconsidering the upgrade to the 9500.

Thank you.

Tom

In a message dated 2/5/2008 10:01:16 A.M. Central Standard Time, wulfeku1@... writes:

Good morning to the group and please help if you can on the following problem. I know that this is an Alpha 87 group, but I have an Alpha 89. It has performed flawlessly over the past year with intermittent use.

I don't run more than 75 watts on average, but when I'm net control for the Feld Hellschreiber Club 40 meter net or when I'm running 80 meter SSTV, I'll put out 350 - 500 watts. Last week, the amp was running just fine putting out 350 watts during the 40 meter net. On my last transmission, when the transmitter's (Yaesu FT-1000mp Mk-V) 20 watt drive ended, I got a soft fault within less than a second after the amp switched to receive mode. It reset properly but while in receive mode, within 15 seconds of resetting, it faulted again. I'll wait the 3 minute warm up, the "wait" signal clears, but in 15 seconds or less, the same fault happens again. If I try to transmit, I'll get plenty of power out, but the second I'm off the key, etc., it immediately faults again. I have never had a hard fault.

When the soft fault first occurred, I noticed the tune/load lamps and the LEDs brightened. Also, the LED in "tune" mode has shifted way to the right whence before it has always started close to the center of the LED bar. The LED's appear to be between 2.8 - 2.9 kV. The plate current reads zero under no drive from the transmitter. I run the amp easy on the grid current, perhaps 15 mA rather than the 30 - 55 mA as depicted in the manual because the output, when so driven with 20 watts and 30 mA Ig, is around 600 to 800 watts; that output is nearing/exceeding my antenna's input limits. I hope I haven't damaged anything by running lite on the grid current. I've opened her up and found no odd odors or what has appeared to be fried circuitry. I stayed away from the electrolytic caps because I got

popped once while working on a Heathkit SB200 and am now a little timid.

I emailed Alpha because they are charging $100/hr for a telephone consultation but after 1.5 weeks, I've heard nada.

Anything sound familiar? The manual states low bias could be a cause?

Thank you for any assistance.

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Yahoo! Groups Links

**********Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music. (http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?NCID=aolcmp00300000002548)

72. Re: [Alpha87a] soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-05 16:23:25 UTC
From: Louis Wulfekuhler
Topic: 70 Message: 72

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/support.asp

I'm sorry, Tom.. it's $110/hour. My error. Thanks for writing back so quickly, though.

73, de Lou

tneill1648@... wrote:

(info edited)

Louis E. Wulfekuhler, W8LEW FH#707
FHC Assistant Net Manager
30 meter FH NCS -- Mondays 0100 zulu @ 10.137 MHz
10 meter beacon -- 28.2637 MHz 5 watts into Inverted V G5RV @ 35 ft

---
Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

73. Re: [Alpha87a] soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-05 20:51:45 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 70 Message: 73

It also states $27.50 for 15 min. but for non-warranty phone support.
I think that they are offering a 4 year warranty on the 9500, so you
would not have to pay for support for four years.. Now if you paid them
$10k, I am sure they will give you lifetime phone support.. Someone
has to pay that person to answer questions, so if I had $$ tied up in
an amp, out of warranty, I would be glad to pay for any support that
could get it back up without shipping it back...

Same reason IBM is out of the PC business, people just not willing to
pay for their level of support. :-)

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

Louis Wulfekuhler wrote:
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> I'm sorry, Tom.. it's $110/hour. My error. Thanks for writing back
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>
> ---
> Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.
> <http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=51438/*http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs>
>
> ---
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG Free Edition.
> Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.19.20/1260 - Release Date: 2/5/2008 9:44 AM
>

74. Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-06 12:18:39 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 70 Message: 74

hello Louis

The soft fault number of your error will indicate the problem.
Is the line voltage according to the tap of the tranformer
Do you have corosion on the fuese holder?
Are the bias voltages in the proper range.

In the file area there is a terminal program to communicate
with your alpha. with the program you have access to the fault
memory.

vy 73 Walter, hb9zs

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Louis Wulfekuhler" <wulfeku1@...>
wrote:
>
>
> Good morning to the group and please help if you can on the
following
> problem. I know that this is an Alpha 87 group, but I have an
Alpha
> 89. It has performed flawlessly over the past year with
intermittent
> use.
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> I don't run more than 75 watts on average, but when I'm net control
> for the Feld Hellschreiber Club 40 meter net or when I'm running 80
> meter SSTV, I'll put out 350 - 500 watts. Last week, the amp was
> running just fine putting out 350 watts during the 40 meter net.
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> in receive mode, within 15 seconds of resetting, it faulted again.
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> circuitry. I stayed away from the electrolytic caps because I got
> popped once while working on a Heathkit SB200 and am now a little
> timid.
>
> I emailed Alpha because they are charging $100/hr for a telephone
> consultation but after 1.5 weeks, I've heard nada.
>
> Anything sound familiar? The manual states low bias could be a
cause?
>
> Thank you for any assistance.
>
> - Louis, W8LEW
>

75. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-06 16:46:45 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 70 Message: 75

Walter,

I have an 89 in addition to my 87a. Unfortunately there is no
DB-connector on the back,
for using Hyperterminal to analyze the amplifier.

The manual discusses a couple of situations which might be associated
with the fault-light on the
front panel, but there is no microprocessor in this model with which
more extensive
communication would be possible.

I will think about Louis' problem description, and email him if I
come up with a suggestion for
his trouble-shooting.

73,

Glenn K6NA

At 04:18 AM 2/6/2008, you wrote:

>hello Louis
>
>The soft fault number of your error will indicate the problem.
>Is the line voltage according to the tap of the tranformer
>Do you have corosion on the fuese holder?
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>In the file area there is a terminal program to communicate
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>vy 73 Walter, hb9zs
>
>--- In <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com,
>"Louis Wulfekuhler" <wulfeku1@...>
>wrote:
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> > Anything sound familiar? The manual states low bias could be a
>cause?
> >
> > Thank you for any assistance.
> >
> > - Louis, W8LEW

76. Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-06 22:20:40 UTC
From: w0ewm
Topic: 70 Message: 76

I have to agree with Louis. I also have an 87A and have been considering a 9500. I just can't think of any other company that I do business with for my amateur radio hobby - Ten-Tec, MFJ, Yaesu, ICOM, etc. that charge me by the minute or the hour for telephone help on a problem. I can only assume that ALPHA is having very tough times with their "ecconomics." I'm starting, today, to look at other amplifiers.
73, Merle - W0EWM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Louis
>
> I cannot help you with your Alpha 89 problem as I have never owned that
> amplifier. I do own 2 Alpha 87As.
>
> Your comment about Alpha charging $100 per hour for consulting was a real
> shocker. I cannot imagine any customer oriented business charging me a
> consulting fee if I am having a problem with their product. Your insight has me
> reconsidering the upgrade to the 9500.
>
> Thank you.
>
> Tom
>
>
> In a message dated 2/5/2008 10:01:16 A.M. Central Standard Time,
> wulfeku1@... writes:
>
>
> Good morning to the group and please help if you can on the following
> problem. I know that this is an Alpha 87 group, but I have an Alpha
> 89. It has performed flawlessly over the past year with intermittent
> use.
>
> I don't run more than 75 watts on average, but when I'm net control
> for the Feld Hellschreiber Club 40 meter net or when I'm running 80

> meter SSTV, I'll put out 350 - 500 watts. Last week, the amp was
> running just fine putting out 350 watts during the 40 meter net. On
> my last transmission, when the transmitter's (Yaesu FT-1000mp Mk-V)
> 20 watt drive ended, I got a soft fault within less than a second
> after the amp switched to receive mode. It reset properly but while
> in receive mode, within 15 seconds of resetting, it faulted again.
> I'll wait the 3 minute warm up, the "wait" signal clears, but in 15
> seconds or less, the same fault happens again. If I try to transmit,
> I'll get plenty of power out, but the second I'm off the key, etc.,
> it immediately faults again. I have never had a hard fault.
>
> When the soft fault first occurred, I noticed the tune/load lamps and
> the LEDs brightened. Also, the LED in "tune" mode has shifted way to
> the right whence before it has always started close to the center of
> the LED bar. The LED's appear to be between 2.8 - 2.9 kV. The plate
> current reads zero under no drive from the transmitter. I run the
> amp easy on the grid current, perhaps 15 mA rather than the 30 - 55
> mA as depicted in the manual because the output, when so driven with
> 20 watts and 30 mA Ig, is around 600 to 800 watts; that output is
> nearing/exceeding my antenna's input limits. I hope I haven't
> damaged anything by running lite on the grid current. I've opened
> her up and found no odd odors or what has appeared to be fried
> circuitry. I stayed away from the electrolytic caps because I got
> popped once while working on a Heathkit SB200 and am now a little
> timid.
>
> I emailed Alpha because they are charging $100/hr for a telephone
> consultation but after 1.5 weeks, I've heard nada.
>
> Anything sound familiar? The manual states low bias could be a cause?
>
> Thank you for any assistance.
>
> - Louis, W8LEW
>
>

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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>
> **********Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL
Music.
> (http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?
NCID=aolcmp003000000025
> 48)
>

77. Hello all. Thank you for allowing me to become a member here

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-08 05:35:06 UTC
From: blackbelt1karate
Topic: 77 Message: 77

I have requested to join the Alpha 87A group as I am presently not an owner of the amp. I have been looking for one for a while now. I had an opportunity to buy one locally, but caught the flu and was too sick to drive over to look at the amp and potentially purchase the amp.

The reason for my interest in this amp was not only due to the design, but what I have heard about the company. Customer service etc. With the last few postings of the massive technical support costs at $110.00 hour, I am thinking twice.

I wanted to join this group to learn about the ins and outs of the amp before I became an owner.

I am presently talking to someone about an amp, but the 87A is an older low usage amp. The front silkscreen says ETO versus Alpha radio products.

Is there a build quality difference, component difference from a circa 1992 amp versus the later ones?

I have been talking with Molly over at Alpha, but I had no idea about this new support cost. I do not know of any other company that charges that much for Technical Support.

I do not hope that the company is in a cash flow issue. I would hate to see the amp be off-shored.

Look forward to conversing with you gentleman.

73

78. Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-09 15:30:56 UTC
From: Louis Wulfekuhler
Topic: 70 Message: 78

In follow up...

I sent a rather antagonistic email to the sales dept at Alpha. Within 1/2 hour, I had my report from the technician. The problem turned out to be something really really simple and I fixed it in about 30 seconds.

The amp was faulting due to oxidation to the leads on the 12 volt regulator chip. I wiped it off and presto... the amp is now at full functioning capacity. 30 seconds! Most of that was removing 4 screws.

Anyhow, thank you all for your thoughts on my problem. And as far as Alpha's answers to the charges, fees, and customer service... well, if you would like the email exchanges, I'll be glad to forward them to you personally rather than post to the group site.

I am not an aggitator nor flamer, but I am a concerned consumer and as in most customer/entrepeneur ralationships, if you're not assertive then you'll be over-looked. From what I gather about Alpha, the company is too understaffed in the service/repair dept. and rather greedy, but underneath, they still care. They just need to remember who thier clients are and make adjustments accordingly. Not everyone in ham radio can afford spending > $5K on a single piece of equipment. Eventually, their market share will dry up especially with all the other amplifier manufacturers out there and Alpha will become Omega.

73 and best wishes to the group.

- Lou, W8LEW; wulfeku1@...

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "w0ewm" <hmbone1@...> wrote:
>
> I have to agree with Louis. I also have an 87A and have been
> considering a 9500. I just can't think of any other company that I do
> business with for my amateur radio hobby - Ten-Tec, MFJ, Yaesu, ICOM,
> etc. that charge me by the minute or the hour for telephone help on a
> problem. I can only assume that ALPHA is having very tough times with
> their "ecconomics." I'm starting, today, to look at other amplifiers.
> 73, Merle - W0EWM
>

79. Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-09 15:33:37 UTC
From: Louis Wulfekuhler
Topic: 70 Message: 79

Thanks, Walter,

You were right on about the line voltage... it was oxidation on the leads to the 12 volt regulator chip. I wiped it off and things were back to normal.

73 and TU again...

- Lou

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> hello Louis
>
> The soft fault number of your error will indicate the problem.
> Is the line voltage according to the tap of the tranformer
> Do you have corosion on the fuese holder?
> Are the bias voltages in the proper range.
>
> In the file area there is a terminal program to communicate
> with your alpha. with the program you have access to the fault
> memory.
>
> vy 73 Walter, hb9zs
>
>

80. Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 16:17:53 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 70 Message: 80

I have also received great customer support from Alpha and they have not charged me a nickel! I think the charges are aimed mainly at Commercial clients who can afford it and $110 per hour is not an unreasonable charge in any case... as one of their techs can accomplish a lot in 15 minutes. Molly in custome service is well versed in the more common problems and can often solve an issue without taking up a technicians time. Has anyone ever actually been charged unfairly?

I also have to wonder at someone can afford to pay close to 10G for an amp... and can't afford $27.50 ;-) No wonder hams have a reputation of been ... "frugal"!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Louis Wulfekuhler" <wulfeku1@...> wrote:
>
>
> In follow up...
>
> I sent a rather antagonistic email to the sales dept at Alpha. Within
> 1/2 hour, I had my report from the technician. The problem turned out
> to be something really really simple and I fixed it in about 30
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> The amp was faulting due to oxidation to the leads on the 12 volt
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> functioning capacity. 30 seconds! Most of that was removing 4 screws.
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> Anyhow, thank you all for your thoughts on my problem. And as far as
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> personally rather than post to the group site.
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> in most customer/entrepeneur ralationships, if you're not assertive
> then you'll be over-looked. From what I gather about Alpha, the
> company is too understaffed in the service/repair dept. and rather

> greedy, but underneath, they still care. They just need to
remember
> who thier clients are and make adjustments accordingly. Not
everyone
> in ham radio can afford spending > $5K on a single piece of
equipment.
> Eventually, their market share will dry up especially with all the
> other amplifier manufacturers out there and Alpha will become
Omega.
>
> 73 and best wishes to the group.
>
> - Lou, W8LEW; wulfeku1@...
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "w0ewm" <hmbone1@> wrote:
> >
> > I have to agree with Louis. I also have an 87A and have been
> > considering a 9500. I just can't think of any other company that
I do
> > business with for my amateur radio hobby - Ten-Tec, MFJ, Yaesu,
ICOM,
> > etc. that charge me by the minute or the hour for telephone help
on a
> > problem. I can only assume that ALPHA is having very tough times
with
> > their "ecconomics." I'm starting, today, to look at other
amplifiers.
> > 73, Merle - W0EWM
> >
>

81. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: soft fault problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 16:24:38 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 70 Message: 81

I also had a recent problem with my 87a.
Molly took me as far as she could (very good too) and passed me over to a tech
for about 15 mins. Problem sorted and no charge.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://g0hwc.com/station_details.htm

----- Original Message -----
From: Mel
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 4:17 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: soft fault problem

I have also received great customer support from Alpha and they have
not charged me a nickel! I think the charges are aimed mainly at
Commercial clients who can afford it and $110 per hour is not an
unreasonable charge in any case... as one of their techs can
accomplish a lot in 15 minutes. Molly in custome service is well
versed in the more common problems and can often solve an issue
without taking up a technicians time. Has anyone ever actually been
charged unfairly?

I also have to wonder at someone can afford to pay close to 10G for
an amp... and can't afford $27.50 ;-) No wonder hams have a
reputation of been ... "frugal"!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Louis Wulfekuhler" <wulfeku1@...>
wrote:
>
>
> In follow up...
>
> I sent a rather antagonistic email to the sales dept at Alpha.
Within
> 1/2 hour, I had my report from the technician. The problem turned
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> to be something really really simple and I fixed it in about 30
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>
> The amp was faulting due to oxidation to the leads on the 12 volt
> regulator chip. I wiped it off and presto... the amp is now at
full
> functioning capacity. 30 seconds! Most of that was removing 4
screws.
>

> Anyhow, thank you all for your thoughts on my problem. And as far
as
> Alpha's answers to the charges, fees, and customer service... well,
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> then you'll be over-looked. From what I gather about Alpha, the
> company is too understaffed in the service/repair dept. and rather
> greedy, but underneath, they still care. They just need to
remember
> who thier clients are and make adjustments accordingly. Not
everyone
> in ham radio can afford spending > $5K on a single piece of
equipment.
> Eventually, their market share will dry up especially with all the
> other amplifier manufacturers out there and Alpha will become
Omega.
>
> 73 and best wishes to the group.
>
> - Lou, W8LEW; wulfeku1@...
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "w0ewm" <hmbone1@> wrote:
> >
> > I have to agree with Louis. I also have an 87A and have been
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ICOM,
> > etc. that charge me by the minute or the hour for telephone help
on a
> > problem. I can only assume that ALPHA is having very tough times
with
> > their "ecconomics." I'm starting, today, to look at other
amplifiers.
> > 73, Merle - W0EWM
> >
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.20.0/1268 - Release Date: 09/02/2008 11:54

82. Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 17:46:54 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 82 Message: 82

Hello all. I would like to ask the opinion of people in the forum.

I am considering purchasing a 87A. My concerns are as follows:

1) The economy is starting to wobble a bit and my company just had a major layoff. I was not involved, but it could be an indicator of things to come

2) Even though I can afford the cost of an 87A, my station is not setup and I feel that the station will not be fully operational for 2-3 years.

3) If I do buy the amp and I am affected by a further resizing, how quickly do Alpha amps sell though the ham community, if I need to sell it to pay my mortgage?

4) If I buy the amp now and I do not use it for 2-3 years, is this a good investment now?

Look forward to hearing your opinions

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83. Re: [Alpha87a] Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 18:05:46 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 82 Message: 83

Hi Robert,
not sure what part of the world you are in?
But here in the UK, getting hold of a 87a is real hard and when one comes
up for sale they get snapped up real quick for £2200 to £2400

I think you need to say where in the world you are in.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Smith
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 5:46 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Your opinions

Hello all. I would like to ask the opinion of people in the forum.

I am considering purchasing a 87A. My concerns are as follows:

1) The economy is starting to wobble a bit and my company just had a major layoff. I was not involved, but it could be an indicator of things to come

2) Even though I can afford the cost of an 87A, my station is not setup and I feel that the station will not be fully operational for 2-3 years.

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Look forward to hearing your opinions

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Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.20.0/1268 - Release Date: 09/02/2008 11:54

84. Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 19:30:25 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 82 Message: 84

I am in the US!!

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85. Re: [Alpha87a] Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-10 20:07:06 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 82 Message: 85

Louis,

I have plenty of assets on cold storage in case of that rainy day. I have been with my company about 13 years. I have been through about 20+ layoffs and have not been affected. This does not mean that with the law of averages, I will be eventually hit.

I am a high performer, as defined by my reviews and awards, but when it comes to what side of the balance sheet you are on, you might indeed be part of the "cost savings" thinking.

The economy is bad,this is true. It is an election year, the stock market is unstable, the housing market is collapsing or at least retracting. You might be right Louis, it might be prudent to wait this one out. The bad news is that it is so difficult to find an Alpha 87A. They do get snapped up quickly. My justification to myself was if I needed to sell it, I could. Of course that thinking is in today's terms, not if the economy retracts any further. Yes, I agree on the old adage of " It is better to have a $10,000 antenna system and a $100.00 radio then a $10,000 radio and a $100.00 antenna. I completely agree.

Food for thought. I need to see some more opinions and make a decision.

----- Original Message ----
From: Louis Wulfekuhler <wulfeku1@...>
To: blackbelt1karate@...
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 11:39:57 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Your opinions

Hey, Robert,

1) If you don't have a large amount of senority, then never trust corporate to keep you on staff. I used to make about 4 million, yes, million, dollars for my company and they didn't think twice about letting me go.

2) Remember that an amplifier will privide you with 1 to 1.25 S units better than a 100 watt output. If you are 59 or 599 with running full power with an amplifier, then you're going to be at least 56 or 569 running 0.15 watts. It's 99% in the antenna and 1% in the power.

3 & 4) If you even have to consider selling a posession to pay your mortgage, then you'd be foolish in these times of recession, flakey market variances, and lack of job security to make a purchase of such degree. You will not gain equity in your amplifier.

Put that money to better use. Run barefoot or qrp and see what contacts you make. If this fails to satisfy you, make a better antenna. If this fails to satisfy you, then if you are liquid in your assets and have a 6 month emergency fund (1 months expenses x 6 in a safe bank account) you could consider buying an amp.

I've had an amp x 8 years and have used it perhaps 25 to 30 hours in that time. 95% of my 2200 contacts in 12 months have been using power levels of 50 watts or less. I have a neighbor who is WAS, WAC, DXCC using qrp SSTV on all HF bands other than WARC bands and 160

meters. His comment, "it's all in the antenna and timing of the contact using propagational charts easily available on the internet these days."

GL in your decision, Robert. Amps are impressive to look at and all and you always hear of folks using one, but, my best experiences with ham radio have been without them.

73 and best wishes,

Lou, W8LEW

Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...> wrote:
Hello all. I would like to ask the opinion of people in the forum.

I am considering purchasing a 87A. My concerns are as follows:

1) The economy is starting to wobble a bit and my company just had a major layoff. I was not involved, but it could be an indicator of things to come

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4) If I buy the amp now and I do not use it for 2-3 years, is this a good investment now?

Look forward to hearing your opinions

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86. 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-11 00:58:55 UTC
From: Bruce & Gab
Topic: 86 Message: 86

What is the pricing of a good condition 87a? I see anywhere from $4500 to $5000 on eHam.net, QTH.com, amd QRZ.com. I am interested in finding a good condition one to add to my station.

73 de Bruce, N7TY

87. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-11 06:24:38 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 86 Message: 87

Bruce,

That's about right in price. If it needs repair, or tubes, price accordingly..

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

Bruce & Gab wrote:
>
> What is the pricing of a good condition 87a? I see anywhere from
> $4500 to $5000 on eHam.net, QTH.com, amd QRZ.com. I am interested in
> finding a good condition one to add to my station.
>
> 73 de Bruce, N7TY
>

88. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-11 06:28:30 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 86 Message: 88

But how quickly do they get snapped up?

----- Original Message ----
From: Dudley Hurry <jhurry@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2008 10:24:38 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 87a pricing

Bruce,

That's about right in price. If it needs repair, or tubes, price
accordingly. .

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

Bruce & Gab wrote:
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> finding a good condition one to add to my station.
>
> 73 de Bruce, N7TY
>

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http://tools.search.yahoo.com/newsearch/category.php?category=shopping

89. Re: 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-11 20:17:24 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 86 Message: 89

I got my 87 A a couple of years ago, used from a fellow about 30 miles from here. I paid 5500 bucks for it. I think it was one of the best purchases I have ever made in ham radio. I love it.

I do some modest contesting and some DXing and the fully automatic amp is beautiful. I also run a 3 ele steppir (I got it used too)which autotunes as well and for the low bands I have a gap voyager(also bought used for $150). it makes operation seem less. the folks at alpha are very nice and help a lot.

I use computer control and I can click on a spot, the radio goes there, th antenna goes there, and the amp goes there, and it prefills the logger. I work the guy, hit tab tab enter and on to the next one. it is sweet.

I say buy it and enjoy it. you can sell it any time. get the antennas up and get on the air. life is too short to worry about what if's. go for it, you only go around once. and when all is said and done you could probably sell it in a day if you really needed the cash,

tom N6AJR

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(http://music.aol.com/grammys?NCID=aolcmp00300000002565)

90. Re: 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-11 20:32:25 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 86 Message: 90

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...>
wrote:
>
> But how quickly do they get snapped up?
>
>
Go to http://www.eham.net/classifieds/ and do a search for 87A - be
sure to check "include sold listings". You will see that only a few
87A's have been listed/sold there in the past two years. Since the
ALPHA 9500 is about $9000, the 87A's have held their value or
increased! There will be no more 87A's, so used ones will become even
more rare.

91. Re: 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-12 18:43:14 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 86 Message: 91

I paid 4500 US for one about 4 years old in VG condition.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bruce & Gab" <ockmrzr@...> wrote:
>
> What is the pricing of a good condition 87a? I see anywhere from
$4500 to
> $5000 on eHam.net, QTH.com, amd QRZ.com. I am interested in finding
a good
> condition one to add to my station.
>
> 73 de Bruce, N7TY
>

92. Re: 87a pricing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-19 02:13:28 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 86 Message: 92

Ditto... paid a little north of some, but it's still under warranty. Alpha will transfer their 4 year warrantly policy to second (maybe third) buyer for $50.

I don't believe that covers the tubes, but I understand they have a 100,000 hour (unabused) life.

W9KB

93. Of Blowers, Quality Control, and Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-23 16:54:10 UTC
From: wd0m
Topic: 93 Message: 93

Hello folks,

I just joined the group, but have owned an 87a for 8 years, and have been licensed for 47 years. I also belong to the ETO Alpha mailing list forum at QTH.com, which has been a great source of information over the years:

http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/eto_alpha

BLOWER PROBLEMS

Reading some of the older posts on this group, I've seen requests for assistance in blower replacement - been there done that, helped rewrite the instructions posted on Alpha's tech support page (that's my hand in the picture holding the blower). If someone still needs assistance, please get in touch.

I had to replace the blower in my 87a under warranty at the slightly less than 4 year mark due to excessive noise and the blower being out of balance. Rather than send the amp to Alpha, they suggested that they would happily send me the blower and a set of instructions. I did it myself.

The new blower worked perfectly, was far quieter, and, unlike the original, was in balance. Four years later, I encountered a problem with the replacement blower Alpha had sent me. The connector on the blower that plugs into the power supply was improperly assembled by the manufacturer.

Rather than the wires being attached to the connector so they depart the connector in the standard 90 degree manner, the manufacturer simply pushed them horizontally into the connector, resulting in a failure of the wires to stay in place on the connector and, over time, vibrate loose.

The wires should have been pressed into a narrow "V" shaped slot on the end of the connector so they exit the connector at a 90 degree angle. Done properly, the connector cuts through the insulation to make electrical contact and the wire is held in place by the clamping action of the end of the connector.

BLOWER QA PROBLEMS

The problem with my blower could have been caught at several opportunities:

1) Poor quality assurance on the manufacturer's part didn't catch it.
2) Alpha could have, but undoubtedly didn't open the box and check

before they sent it to me.
3) I didn't notice it.

The blower failed at some point, and, by having the optional muffin fan on the back of the 87a case, it masked the lack of noise from the blower. The 87a has fault detection to shut down the 87a to prevent tube overheat. For some reason, that didn't work until the 87a hard faulted, and that got my attention.

I opened the case and didn't see anything wrong. I put the case back together, and opened the plate below the tube deck, so I could see the blower. I turned the 87a on - and immediately saw the blower wasn't working.

I almost ordered a new blower as soon as I saw it not working, but first decided to remove the blower once again - about a 4 hour job. When I had it out of the case, I plugged the blower (a 230 VAC device) into a 110VAC line, just to see if the motor would turn. It did. Use caution if you do this so you don't come in contact with 110 VAC.

If you experience this problem, you need NOT pull the blower to repair the connector. Simply remove the transformer, and you can get to the connector for the blower to fix any improper attachment of the wires to the connector. That will save you lots of time, although if you want to follow the instructions I helped rewrite to pull the blower out of the case, you're free to do so.

BLOWER REPLACEMENT TIPS

If you have a digital camera - take lots of pictures as you disassemble the 87a so you can follow them in reverse order to put it all back together. There are lots of little screws, bolts and nuts (some of varying lengths but otherwise identical) which MUST be used in particular locations to prevent contact with PC boards and other devices.

Someone asked about needing a 90 degree screwdriver to do the blower replacement - you don't, although Alpha mentions it in their instructions. I was able to remove and reassemble everything easily without one using screwdrivers of varying sizes. YMMV.

"IS THE BLOWER WORKING" MOD

I now have a small piece of string tied around one of the perforations in the top of the case over the tubes so I have a visual confirmation that the blower is doing its job.

POOR QUALITY CONTROL = EXPENSIVE TUBE REPLACEMENT

The bottom line is that I am now looking for a set of replacement 3CX8007a tubes - a pricey problem all around which could have been prevented at several opportunities, beginning with the manufacturer and supplier of the blower, as well as Alpha's inspecting their

supplier's products to ensure quality is enforced. I too should have caught it, but didn't.

FUSES

Another question I saw on this forum involved fuses. There are the obvious two on the back of the case, there is the very visible "step-start" fuse, and then there's a sneaky little "cartridge" fuse that doesn't resemble what I would expect a fuse to look like. Alpha refers to this one as the "36V fuse" on the low voltage PC board, located toward the front of the cabinet and near the power transformer. Despite being called a 36V fuse, it is labeled as a 110VAC/2A fuse.

This fuse resembles a small, clear glass cylinder, which is plugged into a raised white plastic socket near the top left corner of the vertically mounted low voltage PC board as you look from the rear of the case toward the front of the case. The fuse has two leads at one end of the cylinder, which plug into the socket. You can reach it (barely) with some needle nose pliers if you remove the nearby connector. Be VERY careful not to crush the glass cylinder with the pliers. You could also remove the power transformer to make it easier to get to the fuse. This unique fuse is available from Alpha for about $10.

RESOURCES

I'm happy to have another 87a resource - and look forward to hearing from other 87a owners. I've enjoyed my 87a over the years and it has served me well, despite this issue.

EXCELLENT SUPPORT

I have received excellent support from Molly, WØMOM, and the gang at Alpha, and wish them continued success with their excellent line of Alpha amplifiers.

73,

Joe
WDØM

http://www.wd0m.com

94. Test Email

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-26 23:00:40 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 94 Message: 94

This is a test email to determine if I am a member.

John Owens - N7TK

95. Re: [Alpha87a] Test Email

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-26 23:16:45 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 94 Message: 95

It worked, John - you are - and welcome to the forum! Did you get that
87a muffin fan ordered?

73,
--

Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

jcowens1@... wrote:
>
> This is a test email to determine if I am a member.
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>

96. Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-27 03:28:30 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 96 Message: 96

I have, what I'm told by Alpha, is an older 87A SN 8799221151P. I purchased it used. Seller stated it was in perfect condition. Yet upon receipt noticed there were numerous places on the front panel where the graphics had rubbed off, etc.

When I last spoke to Anthony at Alpha, he told me the 87As made during this period had slightly different front panels. He said something about the placement of some of the buttons was different.

He further stated unless there was a demand for several front panels, the cost of a new one would be quite high. So, I'm wondering if there are others with older units who might also want a new front panel. I already purchased a top/side panel for it. So with the addition of a front panel, I would have a new amp from the outside.

Anyone else want to join me in ordering a new front panel????

Jim
KBØX

97. Re: Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-27 13:59:09 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 96 Message: 97

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Walker" <jim@...> wrote:

> I already purchased a top/side panel for it.

Jim,

How much did the new top/side panel cost?

73, Dick WC1M

98. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-27 14:48:05 UTC
From: jim@walkersdomain.com
Topic: 96 Message: 98

Its been a few months, but I want to say it was $150.

Jim

KB0X

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Front Panel
From: "Dick Green"
Date: Wed, February 27, 2008 7:59 am
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com (http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php?aEmlPart=0&type=reply&folder=INBOX&uid=73570#Compose), "Jim Walker" wrote:

> I already purchased a top/side panel for it.

Jim,

How much did the new top/side panel cost?

73, Dick WC1M

Yahoo! Groups Links

<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/

<*> Your email settings:
Individual Email | Traditional

<*> To change settings online go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/join
(Yahoo! ID required)

<*> To change settings via email:
mailto:Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com (http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php?aEmlPart=0&type=reply&folder=INBOX&uid=73570#Compose)
mailto:Alpha87a-fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com (http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php?aEmlPart=0&type=reply&folder=INBOX&uid=73570#Compose)

<*> To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com (http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php?aEmlPart=0&type=reply&folder=INBOX&uid=73570#Compose)

<*> Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

99. Cooling Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-27 18:29:59 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 99 Message: 99

The optional Power Supply cooling fan on my Alpha 87A Amplifier (externally mounted or rear of cabinet) needs to be replaced. The normal thing to do would be to replace it with another of the same brand, size, ratings. It is an EBM PABST Model 4580Z, and they are still available from a few suppliers.

It is disconnected now, and it is amazing how much quieter the amp is without this fan. I have had others tell me they don't have one installed for that reason. I have also had others tell me then have one installed, but have a switch so that they can have it off most of the time, but on for high duty cycle modes like RTTY.

Has anyone found an equivalent blower of the same size that is quieter, but still does the job?? Since ETO/Alpha didn't install one on the amp to begin with, its need must be marginal. They advertise full time key down operation at 1500 watts so you have to wonder why it is needed in the first place. Your help and information would be appreciated.

Thank You
John Owens - N7TK

100. Re: [Alpha87a] Cooling Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-27 19:17:24 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 99 Message: 100

Hi John,
Alpha still supply the external fans.
I got one when I got my Alpha Max upgrade.
If you only use voice, don't bother, I run SSTV so 100% duty.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
Live SSTV 24/7

----- Original Message -----
From: jcowens1@...
To: Alpha 87A User Group
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2008 6:29 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Cooling Fan

The optional Power Supply cooling fan on my Alpha 87A Amplifier (externally mounted or rear of cabinet) needs to be replaced. The normal thing to do would be to replace it with another of the same brand, size, ratings. It is an EBM PABST Model 4580Z, and they are still available from a few suppliers.

It is disconnected now, and it is amazing how much quieter the amp is without this fan. I have had others tell me they don't have one installed for that reason. I have also had others tell me then have one installed, but have a switch so that they can have it off most of the time, but on for high duty cycle modes like RTTY.

Has anyone found an equivalent blower of the same size that is quieter, but still does the job?? Since ETO/Alpha didn't install one on the amp to begin with, its need must be marginal. They advertise full time key down operation at 1500 watts so you have to wonder why it is needed in the first place. Your help and information would be appreciated.

Thank You
John Owens - N7TK

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.21.1/1300 - Release Date: 26/02/2008 19:50

101. High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-29 21:57:39 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 101 Message: 101

Hello,

My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some bands than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my rig was indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in line.

I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr shown on my rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the tubes are aging and is the possible cause.

Any suggestions as to a fix?

Rit - N4BNM

102. Re: [Alpha87a] High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-29 22:12:43 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 101 Message: 102

Hi Rit,
what is the SWR without the amp ?
You could have damaged a balun on your antenna with the high power.
Alpha say the coax from your radio to the amp should be 72 inches (I think),
This is part of the matching.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: ritnesb
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 9:57 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] High SWR

Hello,

My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some bands
than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my rig was
indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in line.

I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr shown on my
rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the tubes are
aging and is the possible cause.

Any suggestions as to a fix?

Rit - N4BNM

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.21.1/1303 - Release Date: 28/02/2008 12:14

103. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-29 22:30:44 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 101 Message: 103

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ritnesb" <ritnesb@...> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some bands
> than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my rig was
> indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in line.
>
> I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr shown on my
> rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the tubes are
> aging and is the possible cause.
>
> Any suggestions as to a fix?
>
>
> Rit - N4BNM
>

I doubt that I can be any help, but I have a question. The SWR that you reference - is that as shown at your transceiver, looking into the 87A input? I'm not sure if your SWR problem is going into your antenna, or into your 87A. What is your SWR with the amp in standby?

104. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-29 22:35:45 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 101 Message: 104

Paul,

The SWR without the amp is showing 1.0:1. It does not move at all.
The coax from the radio to the amp is 62 inches. This is the same
length that I used initially and the SWR was almost flat.

I have replaced the coax and the result is the same.

Rit - N4BNM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Rit,
> what is the SWR without the amp ?
> You could have damaged a balun on your antenna with the high power.
> Alpha say the coax from your radio to the amp should be 72 inches
(I think),
> This is part of the matching.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: ritnesb
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 9:57 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] High SWR
>
>
> Hello,
>
> My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some
bands
> than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my rig
was
> indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in
line.
>
> I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr shown
on my
> rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the tubes
are
> aging and is the possible cause.
>
> Any suggestions as to a fix?

```
>
> Rit - N4BNM
>
>
>
>
>
>
> ----------------------------------------------------------------------
-----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG Free Edition.
> Version: 7.5.516 / Virus Database: 269.21.1/1303 - Release Date:
28/02/2008 12:14
>
```

105. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-02-29 22:43:50 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 101 Message: 105

The SWR that I am speaking about is shown on the transceiver looking into the 87A. When the amp is in standby the SWR is 1.0:1.

Rit - N4BNM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clay K7HC" <k7hc@...> wrote:
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ritnesb" <ritnesb@> wrote:
> >
> > Hello,
> >
> > My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some bands
> > than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my rig was
> > indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in line.
> >
> > I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr shown on my
> > rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the tubes are
> > aging and is the possible cause.
> >
> > Any suggestions as to a fix?
> >
> >
> > Rit - N4BNM
> >
>
> I doubt that I can be any help, but I have a question. The SWR that
> you reference - is that as shown at your transceiver, looking into the
> 87A input? I'm not sure if your SWR problem is going into your
> antenna, or into your 87A. What is your SWR with the amp in standby?
>

106. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-04 14:18:07 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 101 Message: 106

Any further ideas?

Rit - N4BNM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ritnesb" <ritnesb@...> wrote:
>
>
> The SWR that I am speaking about is shown on the transceiver
looking
> into the 87A. When the amp is in standby the SWR is 1.0:1.
>
>
> Rit - N4BNM
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clay K7HC" <k7hc@> wrote:
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ritnesb" <ritnesb@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hello,
> > >
> > > My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some
> bands
> > > than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my
> rig was
> > > indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in
> line.
> > >
> > > I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr
shown
> on my
> > > rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the
tubes
> are
> > > aging and is the possible cause.
> > >
> > > Any suggestions as to a fix?
> > >
> > >
> > > Rit - N4BNM
> > >
> >
> > I doubt that I can be any help, but I have a question. The SWR
> that
> > you reference - is that as shown at your transceiver, looking

into
> the
> > 87A input? I'm not sure if your SWR problem is going into your
> > antenna, or into your 87A. What is your SWR with the amp in
> standby?
> >
>

107. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-04 16:31:00 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 101 Message: 107

Rit,
Does the transceiver see the input-mismatch on just one band, or all bands? Is it intermittently bad, or constant now?

Whether the problem is seen on just one band, or all bands, there could be an issue with the bandswitched tuned input circuit. There is a rotating switch wafer inside the tube-box which selects the correct input circuit (band) when the bandswitch shaft turns. There could be a problem with this switch wafer, or the components on the circuit board where the wafer is attached. There is a shaft coupler just outside the tube box, where the main bandswitch shaft extends into the tube box. Make sure the set-screws on the coupler are tight. If you detect any looseness, it might mean the internal switch wafer has become slightly misaligned. The shaft is keyed so this is unlikely to happen, but..... Murphy!

Glenn K6NA

At 06:18 AM 3/4/2008, you wrote:

>--- In <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com,
>"ritnesb" <ritnesb@...> wrote:
> >
> >
> > The SWR that I am speaking about is shown on the transceiver
>looking
> > into the 87A. When the amp is in standby the SWR is 1.0:1.
> >
> >
> > Rit - N4BNM

> > > > Hello,
> > > > >
> > > > My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on some
> > bands
> > > > than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning my
> > rig was
> > > > indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating in
> > line.
> > > > >
> > > > I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr
>shown
> > on my
> > > > rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the
>tubes
> > are

> > > > aging and is the possible cause.
> > > >
> > > > Any suggestions as to a fix?
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > Rit - N4BNM

108. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-04 21:11:31 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 101 Message: 108

Glenn,

The guess you might say that it is unacceptable on some bands.

Here are the readings on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10.

160 meters - 1.5:1
80 meters - 1.4:1
40 meters - 1.3:1
20 meters - 1.3:1
15 meters - 1.7:1
10 meters - 3.0:1

As I mentioned in an earlier post, It use to be flat on all bands.

Rit - N4BNM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann <k6na@...> wrote:
>
> Rit,
> Does the transceiver see the input-mismatch on just one band, or
all
> bands? Is it intermittently bad, or constant now?
>
> Whether the problem is seen on just one band, or all bands, there
> could be an issue with the bandswitched tuned input circuit.
There
> is a rotating switch wafer inside the tube-box which selects the
> correct input circuit (band) when the bandswitch shaft turns.
There
> could be a problem with this switch wafer, or the components on
the
> circuit board where the wafer is attached. There is a shaft
coupler
> just outside the tube box, where the main bandswitch shaft extends
> into the tube box. Make sure the set-screws on the coupler are
> tight. If you detect any looseness, it might mean the internal
> switch wafer has become slightly misaligned. The shaft is keyed
so
> this is unlikely to happen, but..... Murphy!
>
> Glenn K6NA
>
> At 06:18 AM 3/4/2008, you wrote:
>
> >--- In <mailto:Alpha87a%

40yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com,
> >"ritnesb" <ritnesb@> wrote:
> > >
> > >
> > > The SWR that I am speaking about is shown on the transceiver
> >looking
> > > into the 87A. When the amp is in standby the SWR is 1.0:1.
> > >
> > >
> > > Rit - N4BNM
>
>
>
> > > > > Hello,
> > > > >
> > > > > My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on
some
> > > bands
> > > > > than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning
my
> > > rig was
> > > > > indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was operating
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> > > line.
> > > > >
> > > > > I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr
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> > > on my
> > > > > rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the
> >tubes
> > > are
> > > > > aging and is the possible cause.
> > > > >
> > > > > Any suggestions as to a fix?
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > Rit - N4BNM
>

109. Serial Interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-05 02:03:58 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 109 Message: 109

Always read the manual... Just completed the serial interface of the Alpha87 to my shack (Vista) computer. Since mine and many of the newer machines do not have serial port, USB is the next best choice. I purchased a USB to Serial DB25 Adapter cable .

After a few unsuccessful hours, I re-read the Alpha manual and found the following statement: 'If you see garbage you will need to remove pin 22 (Ring Indicator Signal - DCE (Modem) raises when incoming call detected used for auto answer applications) of the 25-pin end of the cable'. I over looked this several things, because I did not see anything, other than my input.

After clipping the above pin, BINGO! Everything works as advertised.

http://www.cablestogo.com/

Alway read the manual...

Ken-W9KB

110. Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-09 18:43:47 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 82 Message: 110

While I don't really see an 87A as an "investment"... it will hold it's value far better than most other purchases... You have a good chance that maximum depreciation will be between 0 and 5% per year. Consider the alternatives... 25% for electronic stuff... 15% for cars... 100% for a vacation. Its a pretty conservative way to spend money... I would say that the maximum cost of owning an 87A you purchase for $5K would be $250 depreciation, $250 opportunity cost (Lost interest) and $250 maintenance (New tubes after 5 years of use and or possible repairs). Can you afford $750 per year... if so go for it... if not... go for it anyway ;-)

111. Re: Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-09 18:49:46 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 96 Message: 111

Some people have a funny understanding of the term -perfect-

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Walker" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I have, what I'm told by Alpha, is an older 87A SN 8799221151P. I
purchased
> it used. Seller stated it was in perfect condition. Yet upon receipt
> noticed there were numerous places on the front panel where the
graphics had
> rubbed off, etc.

112. Re: High SWR

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-09 18:55:09 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 101 Message: 112

Check it with a real meter before you do anything drastic. In my experience, the rig SWR indicators are not very accurate, and tend to read low... but who knows... My input SWR is NOT flat... but it is lower than yours last time I checked.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ritnesb" <ritnesb@...> wrote:
>
> Glenn,
>
> The guess you might say that it is unacceptable on some bands.
>
> Here are the readings on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10.
>
> 160 meters - 1.5:1
> 80 meters - 1.4:1
> 40 meters - 1.3:1
> 20 meters - 1.3:1
> 15 meters - 1.7:1
> 10 meters - 3.0:1
>
> As I mentioned in an earlier post, It use to be flat on all bands.
>
> Rit - N4BNM
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann <k6na@> wrote:
> >
> > Rit,
> > Does the transceiver see the input-mismatch on just one band, or
> all
> > bands? Is it intermittently bad, or constant now?
> >
> > Whether the problem is seen on just one band, or all bands, there
> > could be an issue with the bandswitched tuned input circuit.
> There
> > is a rotating switch wafer inside the tube-box which selects the
> > correct input circuit (band) when the bandswitch shaft turns.
> There
> > could be a problem with this switch wafer, or the components on
> the
> > circuit board where the wafer is attached. There is a shaft
> coupler
> > just outside the tube box, where the main bandswitch shaft
extends
> > into the tube box. Make sure the set-screws on the coupler are
> > tight. If you detect any looseness, it might mean the internal

> > switch wafer has become slightly misaligned. The shaft is keyed
> so
> > this is unlikely to happen, but..... Murphy!
> >
> > Glenn K6NA
> >
> > At 06:18 AM 3/4/2008, you wrote:
> >
> > >--- In <mailto:Alpha87a%
> 40yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com,
> > >"ritnesb" <ritnesb@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > The SWR that I am speaking about is shown on the transceiver
> > >looking
> > > > into the 87A. When the amp is in standby the SWR is 1.0:1.
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > Rit - N4BNM
> >
> >
> >
> > > > > > Hello,
> > > > > >
> > > > > > My SWR on my rig is higher now (between 1.5:1 to 2:1) on
> some
> > > > bands
> > > > > > than it was when I first install my 87A. In the beginning
> my
> > > > rig was
> > > > > > indicating almost 1:1 initially when the amp was
operating
> in
> > > > line.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > I have also recently used another type of amp and the swr
> > >shown
> > > > on my
> > > > > > rig is virtually flat. Someone suggested that perhaps the
> > >tubes
> > > > are
> > > > > > aging and is the possible cause.
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Any suggestions as to a fix?
> > > > > >
> > > > > >
> > > > > > Rit - N4BNM
> >
>

113. Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-10 16:52:35 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 82 Message: 113

My 87A was manufactured in early 1993 and still has the original tubes which require around 50-60W drive for 1500W output. I am told the amp sold for around $6500 when new, and considering its condition, is worth about $5000 now. I would not sell it as there is nothing better in my opinion

John Owens - N7TK

114. Re: Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-10 16:57:40 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 96 Message: 114

Your serial number tells that its ancestry. A S/N of xxyyzzzz tells you it was manufactured in year xx, month yy, and has a production run number of zzzz. So yours was manufactured in 1987 which is very early, Mine is a 1993 with the original tubes still in it, and I love it.
John Owens - N7TK

115. Re: Front Panel

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-10 17:05:29 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 96 Message: 115

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "John Owens" <jcowens1@...> wrote:
>
> Your serial number tells that its ancestry. A S/N of xxyyzzzz tells
you it was manufactured in year xx, month yy, and has a production run
number of zzzz. So yours was manufactured in 1987 which is very early,
Mine is a 1993 with the original tubes still in it, and I love it.
> John Owens - N7TK
>
Sometime in the '90s, ALPHA changed their serial numbering system.
They made the first number (87) as the model number, then the year of
manufacture, then the week of manufacture, then the number of units.
The earlier ones did show the initial year, but those beginning with
87 indicate the change in the serial number system.
Clay - K7HC

116. Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-10 17:17:09 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 82 Message: 116

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "John Owens" <jcowens1@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A was manufactured in early 1993 and still has the original tubes which require around 50-60W drive for 1500W output. I am told the amp sold for around $6500 when new, and considering its condition, is worth about $5000 now. I would not sell it as there is nothing better in my opinion
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>
I have owned three 87A's. The oldest one made in 1991 and the newest made in 2001. `I could NOT find any difference between the three. The older one was converted to the 3CPX800 (heavier duty tube), and they all had ALPHA MAX and ALPHA REMOTE. I sold every one for MORE than I paid for them, but buying and selling has something to do with that. The fact that there are no more being manufactured, and the 9500 is around $9K, does tend to hold up the value of the existing 87A's, IMHO, there is only one other AMP in this class, and that is the ACOM 2000A. If anyone is looking, they cannot go wrong with the 87A, unless it has been abused.
Clay - K7HC

117. Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-10 20:08:08 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 82 Message: 117

That's reassuring as I was on my 3 pair of tubes in 20 years in my TT Titan I replaced with the 87A.

John Owens wrote:
> My 87A was manufactured in early 1993 and still has the original tubes
> which require around 50-60W drive for 1500W output. I am told the amp
> sold for around $6500 when new, and considering its condition, is
> worth about $5000 now. I would not sell it as there is nothing better
> in my opinion
>
> John Owens - N7TK

118. Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 15:23:53 UTC
From: Ken
Topic: 82 Message: 118

I offered my 87a amp for sale (I also have Acom 2000), and when I got an offer of what I had asked, I could not part with the amplifier.

Now the bird cage is a bit noisy, so I will take time to replace it this summer. Then I will be even more reluctant to part with it !

119. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 15:29:28 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 82 Message: 119

Hi Ken,
I don't think I would part with mine ether :-)
and I have found the support from Molly at Alpha 2nd to none.

On the subject of the bird cage, mine is a bit noisy when first switched on
but by the time it has gone through warm up "about 2 mins" its fine, I was
wondering if there is a way I can get some oil to it without the BIG stripdown job?
From what I have seen its a good 3+ hour job !!!

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
24/7 live SSTV (please if you visit, stick in a vote)

----- Original Message -----
From: Ken
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:23 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Your opinions

I offered my 87a amp for sale (I also have Acom 2000), and when I got an offer of what I had asked, I could not part with the amplifier.

Now the bird cage is a bit noisy, so I will take time to replace it this summer. Then I will be even more reluctant to part with it !

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG.
Version: 7.5.518 / Virus Database: 269.21.7/1324 - Release Date: 10/03/2008 19:27

120. auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 15:31:16 UTC
From: Mark
Topic: 120 Message: 120

I'm installing an auxiallary fan on my 87A since I often operate RTTY. Should the air be directed in
or out of the case?

Mark n2qt

121. RE: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 15:33:10 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 120 Message: 121

If you are referring to installing the fan on the back of the amp where the transformer is located, the air blows into the amp and is then sucked through the tubes fins and exhausted out the top two vent holes by the internal fan.

Jim
KBØX

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mark
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:31 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

I'm installing an auxiallary fan on my 87A since I often operate RTTY. Should the air be directed in
or out of the case?

Mark n2qt

122. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Your opinions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 15:49:00 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 82 Message: 122

If I may add my praise - Molly has been exceptionally good with customer service! My 87a developed a problem, and is to be delivered this very day to her for some attention from W?MOM.

As far as replacing the blower, it took about 4 hours in my case. It's not a difficult task, but I do have a couple words of caution. Be sure to keep track of where the nuts and bolts and screws go, because some have to be reinstalled in specific locations due to slight differences in length. If you have a digital camera, take lots of pictures.

The second suggestion is to check the blower connector to be sure it is assembled properly. I didn't notice that the replacement blower connector was improperly assembled by the manufacturer, and it's caused me some frustration. Four years after I installed it, the wires vibrated loose from the connector, the blower quit, and the amp overheated, which is why it's on the way to Alpha today.

The blower is installed in a hard to get to location - you have to partially disassemble the amp. Take your time, and it's a fairly easy job to do. I have a few words and pictures on my home page, under Ham Radio, then Alpha 87a. The "hand" holding the blower you see on Alpha's "how to" instructions regarding replacement of the 87a blower is mine. I took that photo to help Alpha with illustrating and clarifying their instructions when I replaced my blower under warranty.

73
--

Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi Ken,
> I don't think I would part with mine ether :-)
> and I have found the support from Molly at Alpha 2nd to none.
>
> On the subject of the bird cage, mine is a bit noisy when first
> switched on
> but by the time it has gone through warm up "about 2 mins" its fine, I
> was
> wondering if there is a way I can get some oil to it without the BIG
> stripdown job?

> From what I have seen its a good 3+ hour job !!!
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
> 24/7 live SSTV (please if you visit, stick in a vote)
>
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Ken <mailto:barbiekenw@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 11, 2008 3:23 PM
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: Your opinions
>
> I offered my 87a amp for sale (I also have Acom 2000), and when I
> got an offer of what I had asked, I could not part with the
> amplifier.
>
> Now the bird cage is a bit noisy, so I will take time to replace
> it this summer. Then I will be even more reluctant to part with it !
>
> ---
>

123. Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 16:12:09 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 120 Message: 123

The "optional" fan on the back of the 87a case (muffin fan) is used to cool the power supply. When you look inside the case, you'll note that there is a metal plate that separates the case, isolating the tube deck from the power supply area. The internal blower sends air through the tube fins and out the two mesh vents on top of the case over the tubes.

The muffin fan pulls air through the case and exhausts it out the back (through the blades). My understanding is that you don't want to push air into the case, but exhaust it. Unfortunately, my 87a is arriving at the factory today for service, so I can't confirm that the Papst model 4580 Z 230 VAC fan does in fact pull air out of the case. The muffin fan label is facing into the case, if that helps.

73

> ---
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Mark
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:31 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?
>
> I'm installing an auxiallary fan on my 87A since I often operate
> RTTY. Should the air be directed in
> or out of the case?
>
> Mark n2qt

124. RE: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 16:24:13 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 120 Message: 124

I'm not this amp's original owner, but there is no mistaking the fact that my fan is indeed blowing air into the amp, not drawing air out of the amp.

If we can get a ruling from Alpha on this, it would help.

I'm not saying you're wrong and I□m right, I'm just telling you which way my fan is oriented.

Jim
KBØX

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 11:12 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

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> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Mark
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:31 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?
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> Should the air be directed in or out of the case?
>
> Mark n2qt

Yahoo! Groups Links

125. Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 16:59:42 UTC
From: K7HC
Topic: 120 Message: 125

It DOES BLOW INTO the amp! I will copy from the Alpha 87A FAN INSTALLATION instructions, paragraph 4.

"Fan air blows into the amplifier, the direction indicated by thean arrow molded into the fan body"

The primary source for the tube blower is through holes in the divider, from the transformer side. There are two air sources into the power supply side. One being several small holes in the top cover, and the main supply being the opening in the rear where the auxilliary muffin fan is installed. The muffin fan simply assists the overall supply of cooling air for both sides of the divider.

My own experience (with three different 87A's) has led me to believe that the muffin fan is NOT necessary if your activity is generally limitted to CW and SSB. The digital modes are more likely to require some additional cooling by the auxillary fan. The muffin fan also makes more than its share of noise! I put a disabeling switch in and turned it off when I didn't think I needed it - which was ALWAYS - never turned it on.
Clay - K7HC

Clay Brown - K7HC
k7hc@...
www.linehand.com/k7hc.htm
www.linehand.com
www.lehmschlog.com
----- Original Message -----
From: Jim Walker
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 9:24 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

I'm not this amp's original owner, but there is no mistaking the fact that my fan is indeed blowing air into the amp, not drawing air out of the amp.

If we can get a ruling from Alpha on this, it would help.

I'm not saying you're wrong and I'm right, I'm just telling you which way my fan is oriented.

Jim
KBØX

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 11:12 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

The "optional" fan on the back of the 87a case (muffin fan) is used to cool the power supply. When you look inside the case, you'll note that there is a metal plate that separates the case, isolating the tube deck from the power supply area. The internal blower sends air through the tube fins and out the two mesh vents on top of the case over the tubes.

The muffin fan pulls air through the case and exhausts it out the back (through the blades). My understanding is that you don't want to push air into the case, but exhaust it. Unfortunately, my 87a is arriving at the factory today for service, so I can't confirm that the Papst model 4580 Z 230 VAC fan does in fact pull air out of the case. The muffin fan label is facing into the case, if that helps.

73

> ----------
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> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Mark
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:31 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?
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> I'm installing an auxiallary fan on my 87A since I often operate RTTY.
> Should the air be directed in or out of the case?
>
> Mark n2qt

Yahoo! Groups Links

126. Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-11 17:28:20 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 120 Message: 126

I'm sure glad we have exclamation points to assist in discussions. My fan was installed by the factory and came with a switch - and it's always on - I figure if the company offers it as a bit of extra protection, I'll sure take advantage of it, considering the cost of tubes and the little energy the fan draws (about 13 watts) in operation, regardless of the way it blows air.

73

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

K7HC wrote:
>
> *It _DOES BLOW INTO_ the amp! I will copy from the Alpha 87A FAN
> INSTALLATION instructions, paragraph 4.*
> **
> *"_/Fan air blows into the amplifier, the direction indicated by thean
> arrow molded into the fan body/_"*
> **
> *The primary source for the tube blower is through holes in the
> divider, from the transformer side. There are two air sources into the
> power supply side. One being several small holes in the top cover, and
> the main supply being the opening in the rear where the auxilliary
> muffin fan is installed. The muffin fan simply assists the overall
> supply of cooling air for both sides of the divider. *
> **
> *My own experience (with three different 87A's) has led me to believe
> that the muffin fan is NOT necessary if your activity is generally
> limitted to CW and SSB. The digital modes are more likely to require
> some additional cooling by the auxillary fan. The muffin fan also
> makes more than its share of noise! I put a disabeling switch in and
> turned it off when I didn't think I needed it - which was ALWAYS -
> never turned it on.*
> *Clay - K7HC*
> **
> Clay Brown - K7HC
> k7hc@... <mailto:k7hc@...>
> www.linehand.com/k7hc.htm <http://www.linehand.com/k7hc.htm>
> www.linehand.com <http://www.linehand.com>
> www.lehmschlog.com <http://www.lehmschlog.com>

>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Jim Walker <mailto:jim@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 11, 2008 9:24 AM
> *Subject:* RE: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?
>
> I'm not this amp's original owner, but there is no mistaking the
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> the amp.
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> If we can get a ruling from Alpha on this, it would help.
>
> I'm not saying you're wrong and I?m right, I'm just telling you
> which way my
> fan is oriented.
>
> Jim
> KB?X
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On Behalf
> Of Joe
> Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 11:12 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] auxiallary fan, air direction?
>
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> used to cool
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> label is
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>
> 73
>
> > ----------
> > --
> > *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] *On
> > Behalf Of *Mark
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> > *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
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> > I'm installing an auxiallary fan on my 87A since I often operate
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> > Mark n2qt
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

127. Optional Blower

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-12 23:19:00 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 127 Message: 127

The bottom line on my Alpha 87A optional blower situation is that I bought a direct replacement from Newark, assuming that I would end up having to also install a switch to selectively turn it on during RTTY or other digital modes, and off on other modes to get rid of the blower noise. I turned the amp on following installation, prior to putting a switch in the blower power line. I wasn't sure that it was even working as it was so quiet. Sure enough, it was working and apparently the old one was so worn out that it was extremely noisy. It has quite a bit of axial play. The new one adds no additional noise over the standard tube blower. So if you have a noisy optional blower motor, it would be a good $45 investment to get rid of the old blower noise.

John Owens - N7TK

128. Re: Optional Blower

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-12 23:52:12 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 127 Message: 128

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, jcowens1@... wrote:
>
> The bottom line on my Alpha 87A optional blower situation is that I bought a direct replacement from Newark, assuming that I would end up having to also install a switch to selectively turn it on during RTTY or other digital modes, and off on other modes to get rid of the blower noise. I turned the amp on following installation, prior to putting a switch in the blower power line. I wasn't sure that it was even working as it was so quiet. Sure enough, it was working and apparently the old one was so worn out that it was extremely noisy. It has quite a bit of axial play. The new one adds no additional noise over the standard tube blower. So if you have a noisy optional blower motor, it would be a good $45 investment to get rid of the old blower noise.
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>

Did you get the 4580Z? I have a new one, but never put it in because of the noise - now I'll have to give it a try. Thanks for the info.

Clay - K7HC

129. Fault 17 Update/DAS Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-03-16 17:50:34 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 129 Message: 129

Just to update on my Fault 17 problem. I ran a test as directed by Alpha and it detected a problem with the swr detector. The amp made a fairly quick round trip to Alpha in CO and was fixed very quickly (several dioides were replaced-likley blown by a static discharge at the previous owner's QTH), blower was removed and properly installed and some other minor replacements.

Molly and Brad were very responsive in diagnosing the problem and keeping me updated on the repairs.

The problem with the DAS (failing to follow the Alpha band changes) was also easily fixed. Switch S1-3 had to be in the "on" position ("1 of 9") instead of "off" (1 of 36). That cleared the problem and removed the "A" led from being always on. The info on changing the switch was missing from my manual (labled as a "preliminary manual").

Amp is back and running FB.

73

Tim VE6SH

130. Soft Fault Code 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-02 22:58:33 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 130 Message: 130

Greatings to the group, this is my first time here. My Alpha 87A was working normal until one day it just stopped. I am getting a soft fault code 1. This occurs when the amp switches from the wait/warm up period to the opr but only when the relay is keyed. I can clear the fault by just switching to standby and then back to opr. The fault occurs with no RF drive and just shorting the relay RCA jack, it happens as soon as the relay is keyed. I have sent my request for troubleshoot to Alpha a little over a week ago but I have not yet got a response. Has anyone in the group experience this fault condition? This is my second Alpha 87A, I was one of the first 100 owners back in 1990/91 when the amp was first introduced. Any help or advice will be greatly appreciated.

73, Jim kh7ww

131. Re: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault Code 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-02 23:06:11 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 130 Message: 131

I had that recently; fault 1 could be a number of things, but most normally it's the PIN diodes that need to be replaced. You'll find the the square-shaped-white-ceramic diodes you have are not available, and are now replaced by two in-series KS1001 diodes, along with in-parallel 8.2M ohm resistors. The schematics on the alpha web site are up to date on the PIN diode part.

If you really have an amp in the first 100, and it hasn't been back for anything since, you're going to find that it is a 'downlevel' amp, and might be benefited from some other mods, too -- this includes a change to the cut-off bias to those pin diodes (increasing the voltage by adding another zener to the string), an RF safety choke (which helps bleed static off the antenna, apparently a diode killer), and a spark gap arrestor (SGA), which also may help protect those new pin diodes you're going to be putting in.

Information on this is on my web site http://www.n9adg.com (including the alpha-supplied fault-level-1 troubleshooting document).

Brian N9ADG

Jim <kh7ww@...> wrote: Greatings to the group, this is my first time here. My Alpha 87A was working normal until one day it just stopped. I am getting a soft fault code 1. This occurs when the amp switches from the wait/warm up period to the opr but only when the relay is keyed. I can clear the fault by just switching to standby and then back to opr. The fault occurs with no RF drive and just shorting the relay RCA jack, it happens as soon as the relay is keyed. I have sent my request for troubleshoot to Alpha a little over a week ago but I have not yet got a response. Has anyone in the group experience this fault condition? This is my second Alpha 87A, I was one of the first 100 owners back in 1990/91 when the amp was first introduced. Any help or advice will be greatly appreciated.

73, Jim kh7ww

Yahoo! Groups Links

132. Re: Soft Fault Code 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-03 01:04:11 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 130 Message: 132

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Brian Moran <brianmo@...> wrote:

>Brian,
Thank you for your quick response and information, you and the users group is a billion times faster and better than Alpha tech support. Your Web Site is most helpfull and very detailed. Alpha is closed for the day but I have sent sales an E mail request for the parts to upgrade my
87A, I will follow up with a phone call to sales Monday morning. I'm like you, I don't want to ship the heavy amp back to the factory and I would rather do the repair myself. I will visit the Alpha Booth at Dayton this month, I might order a new 9500 before the price increase in June. Thank you again for your help and support. I will update you and the group on my progress.
Best 73's Jim kh7ww

> I had that recently; fault 1 could be a number of things, but most normally it's the PIN diodes that need to be replaced. You'll find the the square-shaped-white-ceramic diodes you have are not available, and are now replaced by two in-series KS1001 diodes, along with in-parallel 8.2M ohm resistors. The schematics on the alpha web site are up to date on the PIN diode part.
>
> If you really have an amp in the first 100, and it hasn't been back for anything since, you're going to find that it is a 'downlevel' amp, and might be benefited from some other mods, too -- this includes a change to the cut-off bias to those pin diodes (increasing the voltage by adding another zener to the string), an RF safety choke (which helps bleed static off the antenna, apparently a diode killer), and a spark gap arrestor (SGA), which also may help protect those new pin diodes you're going to be putting in.
>
> Information on this is on my web site http://www.n9adg.com (including the alpha-supplied fault-level-1 troubleshooting document).
>
> Brian N9ADG
>
>
>
>
>
> Jim <kh7ww@...> wrote: Greatings to the group, this is my first time here. My Alpha 87A was
> working normal until one day it just stopped. I am getting a soft fault

> code 1. This occurs when the amp switches from the wait/warm up
period
> to the opr but only when the relay is keyed. I can clear the fault
by
> just switching to standby and then back to opr. The fault occurs
with
> no RF drive and just shorting the relay RCA jack, it happens as
soon as
> the relay is keyed. I have sent my request for troubleshoot to
Alpha a
> little over a week ago but I have not yet got a response. Has
anyone in
> the group experience this fault condition? This is my second Alpha
87A,
> I was one of the first 100 owners back in 1990/91 when the amp was
> first introduced. Any help or advice will be greatly appreciated.
>
> 73, Jim kh7ww
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

133. Re: Soft Fault Code 1 RESOLVED!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-12 15:57:28 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 130 Message: 133

After speaking to Molly at Alpha, she E mailed me the trouble shooting guide for Soft Fault 1, I actually got a second E mail from Glenn at Alpha with the same instructions. The problem was low receive bias voltage, I measured less than 400v, it should be 700-900v. I traced the problem to an open R18 one meg resistor on the HV power supply board. It was a very easy fix, I was able to replace the resistor without removing the board. My 87A is back on the air. My thanks goes out to Brian (N9ADG) and Molly and Glenn from Alpha. I'm off to Dayton this week. 73's to all...Jim kh7ww

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim" <kh7ww@...> wrote:
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Brian Moran <brianmo@> wrote:
>
> >Brian,
> Thank you for your quick response and information, you and the users
> group is a billion times faster and better than Alpha tech support.
> Your Web Site is most helpfull and very detailed. Alpha is closed for
> the day but I have sent sales an E mail request for the parts to
> upgrade my
> 87A, I will follow up with a phone call to sales Monday morning. I'm
> like you, I don't want to ship the heavy amp back to the factory and
> I would rather do the repair myself. I will visit the Alpha Booth at
> Dayton this month, I might order a new 9500 before the price increase
> in June. Thank you again for your help and support. I will update you
> and the group on my progress.
> Best 73's Jim kh7ww
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> > I had that recently; fault 1 could be a number of things, but most
> normally it's the PIN diodes that need to be replaced. You'll find
> the the square-shaped-white-ceramic diodes you have are not
> available, and are now replaced by two in-series KS1001 diodes, along
> with in-parallel 8.2M ohm resistors. The schematics on the alpha web
> site are up to date on the PIN diode part.

> >
> > If you really have an amp in the first 100, and it hasn't been
back
> for anything since, you're going to find that it is a 'downlevel'
> amp, and might be benefited from some other mods, too -- this
> includes a change to the cut-off bias to those pin diodes
(increasing
> the voltage by adding another zener to the string), an RF safety
> choke (which helps bleed static off the antenna, apparently a diode
> killer), and a spark gap arrestor (SGA), which also may help
protect
> those new pin diodes you're going to be putting in.
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> > Information on this is on my web site http://www.n9adg.com
> (including the alpha-supplied fault-level-1 troubleshooting
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> > Brian N9ADG
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> > Jim <kh7ww@> wrote: Greatings to the group, this is my first
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> by
> > just switching to standby and then back to opr. The fault occurs
> with
> > no RF drive and just shorting the relay RCA jack, it happens as
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> > the relay is keyed. I have sent my request for troubleshoot to
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> anyone in
> > the group experience this fault condition? This is my second
Alpha
> 87A,
> > I was one of the first 100 owners back in 1990/91 when the amp
was
> > first introduced. Any help or advice will be greatly appreciated.
> >
> > 73, Jim kh7ww
> >
> >

> > ----------
> >
> > Yahoo! Groups Links
> >
>

134. Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-29 23:54:54 UTC
From: Thomas B. Smith
Topic: 134 Message: 134

I've left notes on the http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp page and I also sent the same note to service@...
and have to receive a response. Do they now require that we spend $$'s just to ask a few simple questions?

Here is what I sent them:

Greetings,

I happen to be the Proud Original Owner of an Alpha 87A Serial Number 92100382 and a 87 DAS Serial Number 9301024 that I purchased when I sold my Alpha 86 many years ago. Due to retirement, relocation and family health issues I've been off of HF for many years. My Alpha 87A has less than 10 hours TOTAL operational time and the 87 DAS has NEVER been hooked up. Both were then placed back in the Original Shipping Containers Transformer removed and stored in it's Original Shipping container as well.

Years ago when I saw this Amplifier demonstrated at Dayton it was being driven by and ICOM IC-781 of which I also happen to own Serial Number 01689 which was also stored in it's Original Shipping Container until recently.

I have purchased the Alpha Max Upgrade but it has not been installed nor has the BLX-X120 External Muffin Fan. I recently purchased the Sherwood External Cooling Fan for the Icom IC-781 and it is now installed and operational as is the IC-781.

I am now desirous of putting the Alpha 87A into service.

My Concerns are:

1.) I heard bad stories about the IC-781 and slow Transmit ALC and causing damage to Amps, even though I first saw the IC-781 driving an Alpha 87A at Dayton What Should I look out for in that regard?

2.) With the Alpha having been stored for so many years what would be the BEST way to breath life back into her?

3.) Are there improvements since my Alpha was manufactured that I should be aware of, other than the Alpha Max upgrade?

I would also be interested in what type of trade you would be offering to Step up from the 87A and the 87 DAS to a new Alpha 9500?

Thank You Much for such fine products.

73,

KA5CDJ

Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??

135. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 00:27:44 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 134 Message: 135

Phone calls work for me - I've talked to Molly and Glenn many times:

Thomas B. Smith wrote:
>
> I've left notes on the http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp
> <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp>
> page and I also sent the same note to service@...
> <mailto:service%40alpharadioproducts.com>
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> Thank You Much for such fine products.
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> 73,
>
> KA5CDJ
>
> Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before
> their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??
>
>

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

136. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 00:30:29 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 134 Message: 136

And, of course, I hit the send button too soon. Call them at:

303.473.9232

They also answered by e-mails fairly quickly in the pst when I needed
repair on my 87a. They were at Dayton recently - perhaps that is why
they've not responded.

73,

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

Thomas B. Smith wrote:
>
> >
> > I've left notes on the http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp
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> > page and I also sent the same note to service@...
> <mailto:service%40alpharadioproducts.com>
> > <mailto:service%40alpharadioproducts.com>
> > and have to receive a response. Do they now require that we spend
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> > Thank You Much for such fine products.
> >
> > 73,
> >
> > KA5CDJ
> >
> > Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before
> > their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??
> >
> >
>

137. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 02:46:29 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 134 Message: 137

Trade in allowances are posted on their website.

Philip

Thomas B. Smith wrote:
> I've left notes on the http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp
> page and I also sent the same note to service@...
> and have to receive a response. Do they now require that we spend
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>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

138. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 16:45:26 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 134 Message: 138

If you ever get frustrated and want to sell your Alpha 87A, please post it here. I would consider purchasing the amp.
That goes for anyone here on the forum.
73

----- Original Message ----
From: Thomas B. Smith <ka5cdj@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 4:54:54 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

I've left notes on the http://www.alpharad ioproducts. com/contact. asp page and I also sent the same note to service@alpharadiop roducts.com and have to receive a response. Do they now require that we spend $$'s just to ask a few simple questions?

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3.) Are there improvements since my Alpha was manufactured that I should be aware of, other than the Alpha Max upgrade?

I would also be interested in what type of trade you would be offering to Step up from the 87A and the 87 DAS to a new Alpha 9500?

Thank You Much for such fine products.

73,

KA5CDJ

Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??

139. Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 16:54:51 UTC
From: Kenneth Waites
Topic: 134 Message: 139

I have been trying to get a blower assembly since late April. Their system accepted my credit card number..

Emails have been sent to all the email addresses I have for them. Zero responses.

Finally after 3 weeks I called, and Molly was super apologetic, was familiar with my emails, said Dayton had caused the delay, and my order would surely be sent out in the next 24 hours.

That was two weeks ago. Nothing.

Ken K5WK

140. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 17:06:14 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 134 Message: 140

Hi

Call maybe will help.

I did order a blower and they send it out to me just a month ago

Marco Pe2mc

Van: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] Namens Kenneth Waites
Verzonden: vrijdag 30 mei 2008 18:55
Aan: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Onderwerp: [Alpha87a] Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

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Emails have been sent to all the email addresses I have for them. Zero responses.

Finally after 3 weeks I called, and Molly was super apologetic, was familiar with my emails, said Dayton had caused the delay, and my order would surely be sent out in the next 24 hours.

That was two weeks ago. Nothing.

Ken K5WK

_____ NOD32 3145 (20080529) Information _____

This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
http://www.eset.com

141. Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 17:33:07 UTC
From: Clay K7HC
Topic: 134 Message: 141

I have owned 4 Alpha AMPS (3 87a's) and have had a number of issues over time, but I've never had better service from any manufacturer than I've received from ALPHA. Since Molly has owned the company, she and her people have given me full support and assistance. Most of the crew have gone to both Visalia and dayton

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Thomas B. Smith" <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
> I've left notes on the http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp
> page and I also sent the same note to service@...
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> $$'s just to ask a few simple questions?
>

142. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 19:16:09 UTC
From: T. Brad Smith
Topic: 134 Message: 142

Really DON'T want to sell.... Just get it back on the air SAFELY, and correctly.

On 5/30/2008 10:45:26, alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:
> If you ever get frustrated and want to sell your Alpha 87A, please post it

> here. I would consider purchasing the amp.
>
> That goes for anyone here on the forum.

143. Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 20:02:53 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 134 Message: 143

I have found support from Molly at Alpha 2nd to none.

They get a 10 out of 10 from me.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
Echolink MB7ICL-L

144. Re: [Alpha87a] Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-05-30 20:12:22 UTC
From: T. Brad Smith
Topic: 134 Message: 144

Well My HOPE is that I just caught them at a bad time .... I LOVE my Alpha's ... The 87A is the third Alpha I've owned .... an 86 a 77DX and now the 87A. I just want to be SURE about what I'm doing before I place this baby back on the air .. Don't want Smoke if ya know what I mean.

73,

de KA5CDJ

145. Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-03 13:21:00 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 134 Message: 145

I doubt they will have info on the 781... but I can help you.

here is the text of K1VF's ALC mod which superceeds the one I worked out since it works even better. It can be done by any competent tech and may not be needed by all radios, but I had access to 3 of them and they all had severe RF overshoot issues. My 781 and 87A presently work together flawlessly. BTW, it probably wouldn't actually hurt the 87... more likely it would trip the overtrive protection. When I had this problem with my 781 I was using a Ten-Tec amp. There were also some reports that not all 781s had this problem as it was exacerbated by capacitors being incorrectly installed.

Mel, VE2DC

By Vince, K1VF

UPDATED April 5, 2003

Although the above changes (from my initial post) improved the ALC behaviour, reducing a 200+ watt spike, there was still a persistent 1-2mSec spike of 10-15% at the leading edge of SSB and CW operation, at all combinations of power and drive level settings. Although this was not enough of a problem to bother the grid trip protection of 3CX800-type ammplifiers, it did create problems when attempting to use ALC generated by an external amplifier to the ALC input of the 781. The external linear amplifier ALC would provide a sharp Neg going spike (1-2mSec following the input power spike), that in turn would saturate the 781 ALC, reducing its output to zero for the 2-second time constant, before it recovered.

The following changes (including an ammended change to R109 from my initial post) cured the problem completely, and power on SSB (tone injected) and CW now rises cleanly from 0-100% with ZERO overshoot.

1. The (-)9.0Vdc supply to the ALC system was low, at (-)7.5Vdc. The problem was traced to the PI Unit, R8 was canged from 5.6K to 4.7K, 1/2Watt. (Alternatively, you can place a 30K in parallel on the back side).

2. The ALC timing transistor, Q35, was not saturating on fast attacks, meaning it was not able to charge timing capacitor C47 fast enough to properly control the leading edge attack time. Given the typical DC Gain spec of Q35, R109 must be reduced from 4.7K to 1K to allow this transistor to fully saturate.

3. Diode D15 was changed to a high-speed schottky diode, type 1N5711.

Note: this diode was either missing or intentionally depopulated on the later, serial 3156 unit, however it is needed for the leading edge attack, and provides an additional current source to charge C47 directly via the primary FWD-PWR difference op-amp IC4-p7.

These changes were made to both units (Serial #01285, #03156) with identical results, and provides clean rise times (from 0-100% in 3mSec CW) output with no overshoot or ringing at all combinations of Drive and PWR levels.

... Vince, K1VF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Thomas B. Smith" <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
> I've left notes on the
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> Alpha 87A at Dayton What Should I look out for in that regard?
>
> 2.) With the Alpha having been stored for so many years what would
be
> the BEST way to breath life back into her?
>
> 3.) Are there improvements since my Alpha was manufactured that I
> should be aware of, other than the Alpha Max upgrade?
>
> I would also be interested in what type of trade you would be
> offering to Step up from the 87A and the 87 DAS to a new Alpha 9500?
>
> Thank You Much for such fine products.
>
> 73,
>
> KA5CDJ
>
> Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before
> their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??
>

146. Re: Does ANYBODY get a response from these folks any more??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-03 13:31:34 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 134 Message: 146

The info below is incomplete, it is an amendment to an older post by Vince... I will have to retrieve the original post from Vince on mods.dk. I can't do it now because it only allows one lookup per day... but you can fetch it yourself under Icom IC-781

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>
> I doubt they will have info on the 781... but I can help you.
>
> here is the text of K1VF's ALC mod which superceeds the one I worked
> out since it works even better. It can be done by any competent tech
> and may not be needed by all radios, but I had access to 3 of them
> and they all had severe RF overshoot issues. My 781 and 87A presently
> work together flawlessly. BTW, it probably wouldn't actually hurt the
> 87... more likely it would trip the overtrive protection. When I had
> this problem with my 781 I was using a Ten-Tec amp. There were also
> some reports that not all 781s had this problem as it was exacerbated
> by capacitors being incorrectly installed.
>
> Mel, VE2DC
>
> ---
--
> By Vince, K1VF
>
> UPDATED April 5, 2003
>
> Although the above changes (from my initial post) improved the ALC
> behaviour, reducing a 200+ watt spike, there was still a persistent 1-
> 2mSec spike of 10-15% at the leading edge of SSB and CW operation, at
> all combinations of power and drive level settings. Although this was
> not enough of a problem to bother the grid trip protection of 3CX800-
> type ammplifiers, it did create problems when attempting to use ALC
> generated by an external amplifier to the ALC input of the 781. The
> external linear amplifier ALC would provide a sharp Neg going spike

> (1-2mSec following the input power spike), that in turn would
> saturate the 781 ALC, reducing its output to zero for the 2-second
> time constant, before it recovered.
>
> The following changes (including an ammended change to R109 from my
> initial post) cured the problem completely, and power on SSB (tone
> injected) and CW now rises cleanly from 0-100% with ZERO overshoot.
>
> 1. The (-)9.0Vdc supply to the ALC system was low, at (-)7.5Vdc.
The
> problem was traced to the PI Unit, R8 was canged from 5.6K to 4.7K,
> 1/2Watt. (Alternatively, you can place a 30K in parallel on the
back
> side).
>
> 2. The ALC timing transistor, Q35, was not saturating on fast
> attacks, meaning it was not able to charge timing capacitor C47
fast
> enough to properly control the leading edge attack time. Given the
> typical DC Gain spec of Q35, R109 must be reduced from 4.7K to 1K
to
> allow this transistor to fully saturate.
>
> 3. Diode D15 was changed to a high-speed schottky diode, type
1N5711.
>
> Note: this diode was either missing or intentionally depopulated on
> the later, serial 3156 unit, however it is needed for the leading
> edge attack, and provides an additional current source to charge
C47
> directly via the primary FWD-PWR difference op-amp IC4-p7.
>
> These changes were made to both units (Serial #01285, #03156) with
> identical results, and provides clean rise times (from 0-100% in
> 3mSec CW) output with no overshoot or ringing at all combinations
of
> Drive and PWR levels.
>
> ... Vince, K1VF
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Thomas B. Smith" <ka5cdj@> wrote:
> >
> > I've left notes on the
> http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/contact.asp
> > page and I also sent the same note to service@
> > and have to receive a response. Do they now require that we
spend
> > $$'s just to ask a few simple questions?
> >

> > Here is what I sent them:
> >
> > Greetings,
> >
> > I happen to be the Proud Original Owner of an Alpha 87A Serial
> Number
> > 92100382 and a 87 DAS Serial Number 9301024 that I purchased
when
> I
> > sold my Alpha 86 many years ago. Due to retirement, relocation
and
> > family health issues I've been off of HF for many years. My
Alpha
> > 87A has less than 10 hours TOTAL operational time and the 87 DAS
> has
> > NEVER been hooked up. Both were then placed back in the Original
> > Shipping Containers Transformer removed and stored in it's
Original
> > Shipping container as well.
> >
> > Years ago when I saw this Amplifier demonstrated at Dayton it was
> > being driven by and ICOM IC-781 of which I also happen to own
> Serial
> > Number 01689 which was also stored in it's Original Shipping
> > Container until recently.
> >
> > I have purchased the Alpha Max Upgrade but it has not been
> installed
> > nor has the BLX-X120 External Muffin Fan. I recently purchased
the
> > Sherwood External Cooling Fan for the Icom IC-781 and it is now
> > installed and operational as is the IC-781.
> >
> > I am now desirous of putting the Alpha 87A into service.
> >
> > My Concerns are:
> >
> > 1.) I heard bad stories about the IC-781 and slow Transmit ALC
and
> > causing damage to Amps, even though I first saw the IC-781
driving
> an
> > Alpha 87A at Dayton What Should I look out for in that regard?
> >
> > 2.) With the Alpha having been stored for so many years what
would
> be
> > the BEST way to breath life back into her?
> >
> > 3.) Are there improvements since my Alpha was manufactured that I

> > should be aware of, other than the Alpha Max upgrade?
> >
> > I would also be interested in what type of trade you would be
> > offering to Step up from the 87A and the 87 DAS to a new Alpha
9500?
> >
> > Thank You Much for such fine products.
> >
> > 73,
> >
> > KA5CDJ
> >
> > Has service taken a turn for us folks that dealt with them before
> > their buy out?? Are we lost Puppies out here now??
> >
>

147. 781 RF overshoot fix for use with 87A and similar amps

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-04 18:08:21 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 134 Message: 147

Here is both KiVF articles re-organized for clarity by Steve, K0SF

29 Feb 2004 16:09
With the new formatting of www.mods.dk, K1VF's 2003 update to the IC-781 ALC problem is missing. As I had applied K1VF's fix to my IC-781 (SN 2739) and found it to completely eliminate the overshoot, I want to list it here again in its entirety:

The following components are either incorrectly installed, or should be changed in accordance with K1VF's recommendation.

IF Board:

C47: 2.2 uF
C48: .47 uF
R108: 100
R109: 1K
R112: 4.7K
D15: 1N5711

PI Board:

R8: 4.7K

The IF board changes required about 2 hours, the PI board about 1 hour. It is an evening project.

I used a 1N4148 diode for D15, since it's reverse bias transit time was nearly that of the 1N5711 Schottky.

Also, I left R109 alone. The factory had installed a 820 ohm resistor in this position.

Note that the user will also need to check the -9V supply coming from the PI board. Before modification, my -9V line was low, -7.4 VDC. K1VF recommends changing R8 on the PI board to 4.7K to achieve -9V. When I changed R8 to 4.7K, my -9V line lifted to -9.4 VDC, but I left it that way. A 5.1K might be a better choice for R8. The circuit is Beta dependent, and does not use true voltage referencing.

Before modification, my QRO HF-2500DX amplifier's grid over-current reset would trip constantly. The problem was extremely annoying, making it almost impossible to run the amplifier in a contest. I have not had to reset the QRO once since the modification.

I will try to get a digitizing scope from work and take screen dumps of the modulation envelopes from IC-781's with and without the fix to demonstrate the difference. I have 2 more IC-781s that I will be

modifying for friends; I should have an opportunity to do this.

Thanks to Vince, K1VF for really digging into this elusive problem and coming up with the "silver bullet" fix.

Steve, K0SF

148. 87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-13 22:39:27 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 148 Message: 148

I'm planning to use my 87A with an Icom 7700 but I note that the PIN diodes only safly bypass 175W. When does this limitation apply? When the amp is powered down? In standby? Always? Thanks...

149. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-13 22:44:40 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 148 Message: 149

I would say always.

Mel <MelJMartin@...> wrote: I'm planning to use my 87A with an Icom 7700 but I note that the PIN
diodes only safly bypass 175W. When does this limitation apply? When
the amp is powered down? In standby? Always? Thanks...

Michael Almeter
W4MJA

150. Re: 87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-13 23:04:05 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 148 Message: 150

Thanks for the input Michael. Looking at the simplified schematic, there seems to be a hard bypass when it is off... but I'm not sure about when in standby mode. When It's actually operating I never use more than about 50W and I will (contrary to the manual's suggestion) use the ALC to limit drive at around 75W.... so I'm concerned about when the amp is in standby. I think it's safe, but it would be nice to be sure ;-)

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Michael Almeter <w4mja@...> wrote:
>
> I would say always.
>
>
> Mel <MelJMartin@...> wrote: I'm planning
to use my 87A with an Icom 7700 but I note that the PIN
> diodes only safly bypass 175W. When does this limitation apply? When
> the amp is powered down? In standby? Always? Thanks...
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Michael Almeter
> W4MJA
>

151. Re:87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-14 15:10:17 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 148 Message: 151

A friend of mine has a 200W xcvr (IC7000) and he is able to transmit through it with the amp powered down, but once overdrove the amp with with it on at 200W drive and did smoke it. It cost him hearly for that experience.

John Owens - N7TK

152. RE: [Alpha87a] Re:87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-14 15:17:48 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 148 Message: 152

Hi

Did overdrive my amp serveral times. It's was stupid but lucky it went in protect mode.

I know when you do it to much time I will coast ya a linear but why did it not go on protect mode on his end??

Marco Pe2mc

http://www. pe2mc.nl

Van: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] Namens John Owens
Verzonden: zaterdag 14 juni 2008 17:10
Aan: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Onderwerp: [Alpha87a] Re:87A with 200W rig

A friend of mine has a 200W xcvr (IC7000) and he is able to transmit through it with the amp powered down, but once overdrove the amp with with it on at 200W drive and did smoke it. It cost him hearly for that experience.

John Owens - N7TK

_____ NOD32 3186 (20080613) Information _____

This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
http://www.eset.com

153. Re:87A with 200W rig

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-14 16:27:04 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 148 Message: 153

If it goes into fault mode, the PIN diodes bypass the tube protecting them... but bypassing 200W can destroy the PIN diodes, not the tubes. What I don't know is: Is the amp at risk when powerd down? (I don't think so) And is the amp at risk in standby mode: (I think it may be)

Mel... VE2DC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Marco van Dijk" <Marco@...> wrote:
>
> Hi
>
>
>
> Did overdrive my amp serveral times. It's was stupid but lucky it
went in
> protect mode.
>
> I know when you do it to much time I will coast ya a linear but why
did it
> not go on protect mode on his end??
>
>
>
>
>
> Marco Pe2mc
>
> http://www. pe2mc.nl
>
>
>
>
>
> Van: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Namens John
> Owens
> Verzonden: zaterdag 14 juni 2008 17:10
> Aan: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Onderwerp: [Alpha87a] Re:87A with 200W rig
>
>
>
> A friend of mine has a 200W xcvr (IC7000) and he is able to
transmit through
> it with the amp powered down, but once overdrove the amp with with

it on at
> 200W drive and did smoke it. It cost him hearly for that experience.
>
>
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>
>
>
> _____ NOD32 3186 (20080613) Information _____
>
> This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
> http://www.eset.com
>

154. anyone selling 3CX800 pulls ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-27 20:19:51 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 154 Message: 154

Hi guys,
my 87a is running fine but would like to get hold of a pair of
spare tubes "just in case".
I also have a 76a that has a pair of Eimac 8874's amd would also like
a spare pair of these.

Paul G0HWC
paul@g0hwc.com
http://www.g0hwc.com

155. Re: [Alpha87a] anyone selling 3CX800 pulls ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-27 21:10:37 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 154 Message: 155

Check with Jan Robbins, N?JR:

swanman@...

He has the 3CPX800 pulse tubes available.

73,

Joe
WD?M

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi guys,
> my 87a is running fine but would like to get hold of a pair of
> spare tubes "just in case".
> I also have a 76a that has a pair of Eimac 8874's amd would also like
> a spare pair of these.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> paul@... <mailto:paul%40g0hwc.com>
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>

156. Re: [Alpha87a] anyone selling 3CX800 pulls ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-27 21:27:19 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 154 Message: 156

Paul,

I have a pair of 3CPX800s that are surplus and are verified good..
I'll take $600 US, shipped to the continental US. To use in the 87A
you have to either replace or remove the the glass hold downs that are
attached to the upper cover. But they work fine in the 87A, I do have
photos of the front panel drive.

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi guys,
> my 87a is running fine but would like to get hold of a pair of
> spare tubes "just in case".
> I also have a 76a that has a pair of Eimac 8874's amd would also like
> a spare pair of these.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> paul@... <mailto:paul%40g0hwc.com>
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>
>

--
73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

157. 3CPX800's in 87A?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-06-28 10:10:13 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 157 Message: 157

Hi all,
not fully understanding what the differance between a pair of
3CX800's and 3CPX800's are apart from being a taller tube.
Would like to hear from anyone running them in their 87A

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

158. 87A generating RX interference.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-13 17:47:21 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 158 Message: 158

Anybody else notice a spur in their receiver at about 28.012 and also at 14.006 and 50.025. It's there whether the amp is powered on or not but dissapears if the 87A's plug is pulled.

159. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A generating RX interference.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-13 21:57:55 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 158 Message: 159

Mel,

Did you have the RS-232 connected? I have had to place some clamp on ferrites at both ends of the RS232 cable.

73,
Dudley
WA5QPZ

Mel wrote:
>
> Anybody else notice a spur in their receiver at about 28.012 and also
> at 14.006 and 50.025. It's there whether the amp is powered on or not
> but dissapears if the 87A's plug is pulled.
>
>

160. Re: 87A generating RX interference.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-14 10:04:20 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 158 Message: 160

Yes I do. I tried disconnecting it but it's still there about 10db
above the noise floor with the antenna connected. With the antenna
disconnectd it's very prominant.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dudley Hurry <jhurry@...> wrote:
>
> Mel,
>
> Did you have the RS-232 connected? I have had to place some clamp
on
> ferrites at both ends of the RS232 cable.
>
> 73,
> Dudley
> WA5QPZ
>
> Mel wrote:
> >
> > Anybody else notice a spur in their receiver at about 28.012 and
also
> > at 14.006 and 50.025. It's there whether the amp is powered on or
not
> > but dissapears if the 87A's plug is pulled.
> >
> >
>

161. 87A issue on 80M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-18 02:34:36 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 161 Message: 161

My 87A with AlphaMax has suddenly quit working on 80M. It works fine 40-10M but gives soft failure on 80M. First/last leds flashing as well as plate led. Tried on good flat antenna and dummy load - same result. Any ideas? I note there are three fixed caps which switch in on 80M. Wonder if one has gone bad?

Jim

K7EG

162. Re: 87A issue on 80M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-18 15:13:25 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 161 Message: 162

Could be a bad input or output band switch.

Have you changed transceivers? The status you're getting can also be caused by an RF spike from the rig.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A with AlphaMax has suddenly quit working on 80M. It works fine 40-10M
> but gives soft failure on 80M. First/last leds flashing as well as plate
> led. Tried on good flat antenna and dummy load - same result. Any ideas?
> I note there are three fixed caps which switch in on 80M. Wonder if one has
> gone bad?
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>

163. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-18 15:21:56 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 161 Message: 163

Thanks Dick. I have been using Elecraft K3 with it since Feb. K3 runs fb barefoot on 80M with flat SWR into antenna or dummy load. Could be switch contact or 80M caps. Cannot get Alpha to return email or phone calls.

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dick Green
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 8:13 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M

Could be a bad input or output band switch.

Have you changed transceivers? The status you're getting can also be caused by an RF spike from the rig.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> My 87A with AlphaMax has suddenly quit working on 80M. It works fine 40-10M
> but gives soft failure on 80M. First/last leds flashing as well as plate
> led. Tried on good flat antenna and dummy load - same result. Any ideas?
> I note there are three fixed caps which switch in on 80M. Wonder if one has
> gone bad?
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>

164. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-18 15:43:03 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 161 Message: 164

Jim,
what email are you using for Alpha ?
I have always found Molly most helpfull
sales <sales@...>

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: James Denneny
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 4:21 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M

Thanks Dick. I have been using Elecraft K3 with it since Feb. K3 runs fb barefoot on 80M with flat SWR into antenna or dummy load. Could be switch contact or 80M caps. Cannot get Alpha to return email or phone calls.

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dick Green
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 8:13 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M

Could be a bad input or output band switch.

Have you changed transceivers? The status you're getting can also be
caused by an RF spike from the rig.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> My 87A with AlphaMax has suddenly quit working on 80M. It works
fine 40-10M
> but gives soft failure on 80M. First/last leds flashing as well as
plate
> led. Tried on good flat antenna and dummy load - same result. Any
ideas?
> I note there are three fixed caps which switch in on 80M. Wonder
if one has
> gone bad?
>
>
>
> Jim
>

> K7EG
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.5.1/1559 - Release Date: 17/07/2008 18:08

165. Re: 87A issue on 80M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-19 00:25:05 UTC
From: Thomas B. Smith
Topic: 161 Message: 165

Well, I'm Glad to see that I'm NOT the ONLY one that can't get them to respond to E-Mail nor Return a Land-Line .....

See My earlier post about bringing up an Alpha 87A that has been Off-The-Air and in it's shipping box for abotu 15 years .... And I DON'T want to blow it to Kingdom Come with the first power applied after so long.

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Member West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> Thanks Dick. I have been using Elecraft K3 with it since Feb. K3
runs fb
> barefoot on 80M with flat SWR into antenna or dummy load. Could be
switch
> contact or 80M caps. Cannot get Alpha to return email or phone
calls.
>
>
>
> Jim
>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
Behalf
> Of Dick Green
> Sent: Friday, July 18, 2008 8:13 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A issue on 80M
>
>
>

> Could be a bad input or output band switch.
>
> Have you changed transceivers? The status you're getting can also
be
> caused by an RF spike from the rig.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%
40yahoogroups.com> , "James
> Denneny" <57JNDenneny@>
> wrote:
> >
> > My 87A with AlphaMax has suddenly quit working on 80M. It works
> fine 40-10M
> > but gives soft failure on 80M. First/last leds flashing as well
as
> plate
> > led. Tried on good flat antenna and dummy load - same result. Any
> ideas?
> > I note there are three fixed caps which switch in on 80M. Wonder
> if one has
> > gone bad?
> >
> >
> >
> > Jim
> >
> > K7EG
> >
>

166. 80M ISSUE SOLVED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-19 16:03:13 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 166 Message: 166

I received a nice reply from Molly on Friday. Yes, I agree sending queries to sales@alphharadioproducts may work better than support@alpha...

Molly requested I try 160M. I experienced same soft failure. In that case, failure is a blown pad capacitor. They will send a replacement pad capacitor board. The other possible failure scenario would have been a misaligned bandswitch. If that were the case, I presume amp would not work on any band. Amp is ok 40M thru 10M.

Has anyone else experienced this failure mode? Is it random? Is pad capacitor working voltage adequate for the applied rf voltages? I do not operate 160M operate 80M very infrequently - usually contests only. SteppIR BiggIR vertical with 80M loading coil has very low SWR across 80/75M.

Jim
K7EG

167. Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-19 17:33:28 UTC
From: Thomas B. Smith
Topic: 166 Message: 167

Interesting .. I shall now try that E-Mail address myself, thanks for the update.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> I received a nice reply from Molly on Friday. Yes, I agree sending
> queries to sales@alphharadioproducts may work better than support@alpha...
>
> Molly requested I try 160M. I experienced same soft failure. In that
> case, failure is a blown pad capacitor. They will send a replacement
> pad capacitor board. The other possible failure scenario would have
> been a misaligned bandswitch. If that were the case, I presume amp
> would not work on any band. Amp is ok 40M thru 10M.
>
> Has anyone else experienced this failure mode? Is it random? Is pad
> capacitor working voltage adequate for the applied rf voltages? I do
> not operate 160M operate 80M very infrequently - usually contests
> only. SteppIR BiggIR vertical with 80M loading coil has very low SWR
> across 80/75M.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

168. Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-20 16:58:19 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 166 Message: 168

No that's not true. I have an issue on 40 and 30 with alignment and it works everywhere else. That bandswitch seems to be troublesome as this issue seems to be quite common... apparently caused by flexing of the case if the amp is moved.

> The other possible failure scenario would have
> been a misaligned bandswitch. If that were the case, I presume amp
> would not work on any band. Amp is ok 40M thru 10M.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

169. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-20 18:07:19 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 166 Message: 169

Mel

Thanks for the clarification and headsup. Now I wonder if my 80/160 issue could be bandswitch flexing. It has worked on 80 until now and there has been no movement to jar the switch Molly gave me a second procedure to check that out. I did not run that test as symptoms fit the failed padding cap perfectly.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mel
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 9:58 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

No that's not true. I have an issue on 40 and 30 with alignment and it works everywhere else. That bandswitch seems to be troublesome as this issue seems to be quite common... apparently caused by flexing of the case if the amp is moved.

> The other possible failure scenario would have
> been a misaligned bandswitch. If that were the case, I presume amp
> would not work on any band. Amp is ok 40M thru 10M.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

170. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-20 19:26:48 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 166 Message: 170

I just ran the test AlphaPower recommended to checkout bandswitch misalignment. With K3 TX on 80M, I manually depressed 160M band switch position on 87A. Amp INPUT SWR checked out OK on K3 . I then repeated test with K3 on 80M and 87A manually selected to 10M. Again amp INPUT SWR checked out OK as noted on K3. Therefore, there is no bandswitch misalignment per Alpha. Since the amp soft faults only during 80/160 normal ops, the 80/160 padding capacitor board needs replacement.

I do not know if the 80/160 padding board failure has been an 87A chronic problem or this is a random failure. I cannot think of any operational thing I might have done to cause this failure. It has worked OK for years. My amp was built in early 90's. Perhaps there has been an upgrade in this area. I wonder if Alpha uses the same padding board on other amp models. Anyway, new board will be shipped soon.

73

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mel
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 9:58 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 80M ISSUE SOLVED

No that's not true. I have an issue on 40 and 30 with alignment and it works everywhere else. That bandswitch seems to be troublesome as this issue seems to be quite common... apparently caused by flexing of the case if the amp is moved.

> The other possible failure scenario would have
> been a misaligned bandswitch. If that were the case, I presume amp
> would not work on any band. Amp is ok 40M thru 10M.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

171. 80/160M Padding Capacitor Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-07-31 14:11:21 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 171 Message: 171

I have sent my 87A to the AlphaPower hospital. I received the replacement padding capacitor board. When I opened up the amp and realized what all needed to be removed just to get at the board and solder the leads to the bandswitch wafers, I threw up my hands and shipped amp back. At least, I will get a thorough physical exam to make certain there are no other recommended upgrades and amp/tubes are in good shape. Their 87A tech "Brad" knows every aspect of that amp per Tony.

Speaking with Tony from Customer Support, there are no "chronic issues" with 87A. Pin diodes are holding up well as long as reflected power is held below 150W. Tubes seem to remain sound as long as amp is not pushed beyond amp power rating. My padding cap issue is rare.

I will provide more detail when amp returns in two to three weeks.

Jim
K7EG

172. Alpha 87A and Icom IC-781

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-03 23:26:17 UTC
From: Thomas B. Smith
Topic: 172 Message: 172

Well, even after sending an E-Mail to Molly at the
sales@... address STILL no reply from them on my very
Early Serial Number Alpha 92100382 and how to BEST bring it back to
life after living most of it's life in the Original Shipping
containers.

With the assistance of Mel, VE2DC I have gone thru this list:
The following components are either incorrectly installed, or should
be changed in accordance with K1VF's recommendation.

IF Board:

C47: 2.2 uF
C48: .47 uF
R108: 100
R109: 1K
R112: 4.7K
D15: 1N5711

PI Board:

R8: 4.7K

on my Early Serial Number 01689 ICOM IC-781 and verified

IF Board:

C47: 2.2 uF
C48: .47 uF
R108: 100
R109: 1K Except, my R109 has a factory installed 820 ohm resistor.
R112: 4.7K

All except R109 are correct according to the above list.. I have no
way to verify what diode is in place for D15, nor have I verified
the -9.0V Power from the PI board. It's been hard enough thus far
with removing the IC-781 from service and using magnifying glass
along with my stupid Tri-Focals to verify what I have managed thus
far.

Does anyone know of a "Straight Forward" way to verify if this IC-781
indeed suffers from the Over shoot problem??

I DON'T want to attempt to bring life back into this Alpha without
KNOWING that it's safe (For the Health of the AMP).

I will here in the next few days order a 1N5711 Schottky for D15,
just so we can be SURE of the correct part, and verify the -9.0 Volts

from the PI Board.

Once I get the 240 Back into the new shack does anybody think there is a better way than just applying full A/C Power to the 87A with the Caps not having seen anything for so long (Like 16 Years)??

Thanks MUCH for all your assistance thus far .... I guess my next move with Alpha will be to use the Land-Line since I can't seem to get any type of an E-Mail response from them.

73, all and THANKS ....
de KA5CDJ

173. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A and Icom IC-781

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-03 23:51:43 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 172 Message: 173

Call Molly instead of relying on e-mail - I've never had a problem
getting in touch.

303.473.9232

73

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

Thomas B. Smith wrote:
>
> Well, even after sending an E-Mail to Molly at the
> sales@... <mailto:sales%40aphhaproducts.com> address
> STILL no reply from them on my very
> Early Serial Number Alpha 92100382 and how to BEST bring it back to
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> R109: 1K
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> D15: 1N5711
>
> PI Board:
>
> R8: 4.7K
>
> on my Early Serial Number 01689 ICOM IC-781 and verified
>
> IF Board:
>
> C47: 2.2 uF

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> R108: 100
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> way to verify what diode is in place for D15, nor have I verified
> the -9.0V Power from the PI board. It's been hard enough thus far
> with removing the IC-781 from service and using magnifying glass
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> I DON'T want to attempt to bring life back into this Alpha without
> KNOWING that it's safe (For the Health of the AMP).
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> just so we can be SURE of the correct part, and verify the -9.0 Volts
> from the PI Board.
>
> Once I get the 240 Back into the new shack does anybody think there
> is a better way than just applying full A/C Power to the 87A with the
> Caps not having seen anything for so long (Like 16 Years)??
>
> Thanks MUCH for all your assistance thus far .... I guess my next
> move with Alpha will be to use the Land-Line since I can't seem to
> get any type of an E-Mail response from them.
>
> 73, all and THANKS ....
> de KA5CDJ
>
>
>

174. Re: Alpha 87A and Icom IC-781

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-07 14:07:32 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 172 Message: 174

Dummy load, RF tap (I use an uncompensated home made one) and a
scope. You can see the overshoot. Just turn the power down to 30W a
and send a few CW dits and you will see if there is overshoot on the
first dit. You wont't see it on most meters but you can see it
clearly on the scope.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Thomas B. Smith" <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
> Well, even after sending an E-Mail to Molly at the
> sales@... address STILL no reply from them on my very
> Early Serial Number Alpha 92100382 and how to BEST bring it back to
> life after living most of it's life in the Original Shipping
> containers.
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> With the assistance of Mel, VE2DC I have gone thru this list:
> The following components are either incorrectly installed, or
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> be changed in accordance with K1VF's recommendation.
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> IF Board:
>
> C47: 2.2 uF
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>
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> IF Board:
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> C47: 2.2 uF
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> R108: 100
> R109: 1K Except, my R109 has a factory installed 820 ohm resistor.
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> All except R109 are correct according to the above list.. I have
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> way to verify what diode is in place for D15, nor have I verified

> the -9.0V Power from the PI board. It's been hard enough thus far
> with removing the IC-781 from service and using magnifying glass
> along with my stupid Tri-Focals to verify what I have managed thus
> far.
>
> Does anyone know of a "Straight Forward" way to verify if this IC-
781
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> I DON'T want to attempt to bring life back into this Alpha without
> KNOWING that it's safe (For the Health of the AMP).
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> just so we can be SURE of the correct part, and verify the -9.0
Volts
> from the PI Board.
>
> Once I get the 240 Back into the new shack does anybody think there
> is a better way than just applying full A/C Power to the 87A with
the
> Caps not having seen anything for so long (Like 16 Years)??
>
> Thanks MUCH for all your assistance thus far .... I guess my next
> move with Alpha will be to use the Land-Line since I can't seem to
> get any type of an E-Mail response from them.
>
> 73, all and THANKS ....
> de KA5CDJ
>

175. 87A Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-08 16:21:49 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 175 Message: 175

Does anyone know where to purchase the software to run Remote?
I have acquired a 91, 87A with remote but no software.

176. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-08 16:52:31 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 175 Message: 176

Hi Tomy,
you can get the Alpha software from the group file section, but its not very good !!!
You will be much better with the program by HB9ZS "also in the file section of this group"
This is what I use, it is MUCH better than the Alpha supplied.
I take it your 87A has Alpha MAX upgrade chip installed ? These programs will not work without it.

Good luck
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com See my station details

----- Original Message -----
From: Tomy
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2008 5:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Software

Does anyone know where to purchase the software to run Remote?
I have acquired a 91, 87A with remote but no software.

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.5.12/1599 - Release Date: 07/08/2008 20:49

177. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-08 17:29:55 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 175 Message: 177

You'll find Alpha's Remote Software here:

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/software.asp

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

Tomy wrote:
>
> Does anyone know where to purchase the software to run Remote?
> I have acquired a 91, 87A with remote but no software.
>

178. Re: 87A Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-08 19:55:20 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 175 Message: 178

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe - WDØM <joe@...> wrote:
>
> You'll find Alpha's Remote Software here:
>
> http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/software.asp
>
> --
> Joe Hannigan - WDØM
> Pagosa Springs, CO
>
> http://www.WD0M.com
> http://www.pagosarocks.com
> http://www.quiltqueen.net
>
>
>
>
> Tomy wrote:
> >
> > Does anyone know where to purchase the software to run Remote?
> > I have acquired a 91, 87A with remote but no software.
> >
>
Thanks Paul and joe. Yes the Alpha Max is installed

179. 80/160M Padding Capacitor Update

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-14 22:22:27 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 179 Message: 179

Mollie called. Amp is fixed. Tech reported amp is in great shape. 35W in and 1500w out. Problem was not blown padding cap as suspected. They found burned contacts on a "clapper" relay which is located near plate rf choke?!? I am not sure what its function is and why it only affected 80/160 ops. Their guess is relay failed to pull-in properly. Hopefully this is a rare event. They say my usage did not bring on the failure. They return 3 day air with amp carton strapped onto a pallet for max protection. Pricey event but at least I know that amp/tubes are in great shape for an 18 yr old amp with original tubes. I am a DXer/Contestor so amp gets a work-out. It does not get abused or operated beyond spec limits. I do a good deal of RTTY so external fan is definitely value added.

Jim
K7EG

180. BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-16 20:46:58 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 180 Message: 180

I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and 80M which had not been there before. I found that the IC-7700 Digital Preselector did not help which seemed to indicate the harmonics were external to the receiver. I also tried a HP filter to reject the BCB which also did not help when placed between the RX and amp. It did eliminate the spurs if placed AFTER the amp... which is not a viable configuration since it's rated at 150W! I then hooked the antenna directly to the IC-7700 bypassing the amp and the spurs dissappeared completely. It is almost certain that the diodes in the directional coupler are introducing harmonics. Not good! I don't see the point in paying a premium for a top class RX only to have the amplifier introduce receiver problems! Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong local broadcasters.

Mel, VE2DC

181. Re: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-16 21:28:42 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 180 Message: 181

Mel

Nothing noted on 80M with K3 and 87A but I am not near any strong local broadcasters. I don't do 160. Someone with a spectrum analyzer needs to sweep the 87A. I am 35 mi SE of Seattle.

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Mel
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 1:46 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A

I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and 80M which had not been there before. I found that the IC-7700 Digital Preselector did not help which seemed to indicate the harmonics were external to the receiver. I also tried a HP filter to reject the BCB which also did not help when placed between the RX and amp. It did eliminate the spurs if placed AFTER the amp... which is not a viable configuration since it's rated at 150W! I then hooked the antenna directly to the IC-7700 bypassing the amp and the spurs dissappeared completely. It is almost certain that the diodes in the directional coupler are introducing harmonics. Not good! I don't see the point in paying a premium for a top class RX only to have the amplifier introduce receiver problems! Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong local broadcasters.

Mel, VE2DC

182. Re: BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-16 21:51:15 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 180 Message: 182

It's only a problem with my 160M dipole which picks up a lot of BCB signal. I had the same problem with a Nye power meter.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Mel
>
> Nothing noted on 80M with K3 and 87A but I am not near any strong local broadcasters. I don't do 160. Someone with a spectrum analyzer needs to sweep the 87A. I am 35 mi SE of Seattle.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Mel
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 1:46 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A
>
>
> I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and 80M which
> had not been there before. I found that the IC-7700 Digital Preselector
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> not help when placed between the RX and amp. It did eliminate the spurs
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> certain that the diodes in the directional coupler are introducing
> harmonics. Not good! I don't see the point in paying a premium for a
> top class RX only to have the amplifier introduce receiver problems!
> Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong

local
> broadcasters.
>
> Mel, VE2DC
>

183. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-19 05:06:42 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 180 Message: 183

Mel,

You must have a BC station close.. You could try a tuned stub, tuned to the BC frequency, T'd off your feed line. Sounds like you have some mixing going on in the amp bridge somewhere. I would use a noise bridge to tune the stub.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Mel wrote:
>
> It's only a problem with my 160M dipole which picks up a lot of BCB
> signal. I had the same problem with a Nye power meter.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
> wrote:
> >
> > Mel
> >
> > Nothing noted on 80M with K3 and 87A but I am not near any strong
> local broadcasters. I don't do 160. Someone with a spectrum analyzer
> needs to sweep the 87A. I am 35 mi SE of Seattle.
> >
> > Jim
> > K7EG
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: Mel
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 1:46 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A
> >
> >
> > I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and 80M
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> Preselector
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> > the receiver. I also tried a HP filter to reject the BCB which
> also did
> > not help when placed between the RX and amp. It did eliminate the

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> > Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong
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> > Mel, VE2DC
> >
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.3/1613 - Release Date: 8/15/2008 5:58 AM
>

No virus found in this outgoing message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.5/1618 - Release Date: 8/18/2008 6:51 AM

184. Re: BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 11:09:42 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 180 Message: 184

It pretty much clears up if I leave the antenna tuner in line...
nonetheless, I don't think the transmit amplifier should be the
limiting factor in receiver performance... this plus the Alpha
generated spurs on the low end of the higher bands do annoy me.

BTW, the BCB station is about 10Km away running 50KW.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dudley Hurry <jhurry@...> wrote:
>
> Mel,
>
> You must have a BC station close.. You could try a tuned stub,
tuned
> to the BC frequency, T'd off your feed line. Sounds like you
have
> some mixing going on in the amp bridge somewhere. I would use a
noise
> bridge to tune the stub.
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> 73,
> Dudley
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> WA5QPZ
>
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> Mel wrote:
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> > It's only a problem with my 160M dipole which picks up a lot of
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> > signal. I had the same problem with a Nye power meter.
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> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%
40yahoogroups.com>,
> > "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@>
> > wrote:
> > >
> > > Mel
> > >
> > > Nothing noted on 80M with K3 and 87A but I am not near any
strong
> > local broadcasters. I don't do 160. Someone with a spectrum
analyzer
> > needs to sweep the 87A. I am 35 mi SE of Seattle.
> > >

> > > Jim
> > > K7EG
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Mel
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 1:46 PM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A
> > >
> > >
> > > I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and
80M
> > which
> > > had not been there before. I found that the IC-7700 Digital
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> > > did not help which seemed to indicate the harmonics were
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> > > bypassing the amp and the spurs dissappeared completely. It is
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> > > harmonics. Not good! I don't see the point in paying a premium
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> > > Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong
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> > >
> > > Mel, VE2DC
> > >
> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> > Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.3/1613 - Release Date:
8/15/2008 5:58 AM
> >
>

>
> No virus found in this outgoing message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.5/1618 - Release Date:
8/18/2008 6:51 AM
>

185. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: BCB Intermod caused by 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 12:30:02 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 180 Message: 185

I think something has failed in your 87A. I am using an 89A, which is the 87 without the autotune. I live within 0.6m of a commercial transmitting complex which has just about every kind of high and low power transmitter on it. It causes no amplifier related birdies. If this were typical of the 87A, the contest and DXing crew would have been screaming for the last decade or so. Having to use an antenna tuner for contesting with an autotune amp would have provoked an uprising. I suspect the problem is going to be hard to find. Good luck with it, and keep us updated on what you find. There is a very good commercial broadcast person in the Atlanta area who might be willing to take on your problem. Check ihim out at http://www.n4uq.com/ He is very reasonable and very good.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mel
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:10 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: BCB Intermod caused by 87A

It pretty much clears up if I leave the antenna tuner in line... nonetheless, I don't think the transmit amplifier should be the limiting factor in receiver performance... this plus the Alpha generated spurs on the low end of the higher bands do annoy me.

BTW, the BCB station is about 10Km away running 50KW.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, Dudley Hurry <jhurry@...> wrote:
>
> Mel,
>
> You must have a BC station close.. You could try a tuned stub, tuned
> to the BC frequency, T'd off your feed line. Sounds like you have
> some mixing going on in the amp bridge somewhere. I would use a noise
> bridge to tune the stub.
>
> 73,
> Dudley
>

> WA5QPZ
>
>
>
> Mel wrote:
> >
> > It's only a problem with my 160M dipole which picks up a lot of
BCB
> > signal. I had the same problem with a Nye power meter.
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com
<mailto:Alpha87a%
40yahoogroups.com>,
> > "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@>
> > wrote:
> > >
> > > Mel
> > >
> > > Nothing noted on 80M with K3 and 87A but I am not near any
strong
> > local broadcasters. I don't do 160. Someone with a spectrum
analyzer
> > needs to sweep the 87A. I am 35 mi SE of Seattle.
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > K7EG
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Mel
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com
<mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2008 1:46 PM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] BCB Intermod caused by 87A
> > >
> > >
> > > I had been wondering why I had developed BCB spurs on 160 and
80M
> > which
> > > had not been there before. I found that the IC-7700 Digital
> > Preselector
> > > did not help which seemed to indicate the harmonics were
external
> > to
> > > the receiver. I also tried a HP filter to reject the BCB which
> > also did
> > > not help when placed between the RX and amp. It did eliminate
the
> > spurs
> > > if placed AFTER the amp... which is not a viable configuration
> > since

> > > it's rated at 150W! I then hooked the antenna directly to the
IC-
> > 7700
> > > bypassing the amp and the spurs dissappeared completely. It is
> > almost
> > > certain that the diodes in the directional coupler are
> > introducing
> > > harmonics. Not good! I don't see the point in paying a premium
> > for a
> > > top class RX only to have the amplifier introduce receiver
> > problems!
> > > Has anyone else experienced this? I do have some very strong
> > local
> > > broadcasters.
> > >
> > > Mel, VE2DC
> > >
> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - http://www.avg. <http://www.avg.com> com
> > Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.3/1613 - Release Date:
8/15/2008 5:58 AM
> >
>
>
> No virus found in this outgoing message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg. <http://www.avg.com> com
> Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.5/1618 - Release Date:
8/18/2008 6:51 AM
>

E-mail message checked by Spyware Doctor (5.5.1.322)
Database version: 5.10520e
http://www.pctools.com/spyware-doctor/
<http://www.pctools.com/en/spyware-doctor/>

186. Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 14:30:09 UTC
From: Michael Wise
Topic: 186 Message: 186

Im hoping someone can give me a little bit of help I have a Alpha 87a that has been working flawlessly. Yesteday I went to make a contact on 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17. I have checked all my cables,removed the tuner Palstar At-Auto out of line. I am using a dummy load and I still have the problem it faults on all bands except 160 meters (I get full power on 160 with 45 watt drive) Nothing has changed in my configuration. I used it the day before on 20 meters and it worked fine.

Mike, K4PRO

188. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 14:36:20 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 186 Message: 188

Mike

Check the "clapper" relay with contacts above the rf plate choke. My contacts burned out disabling both 80M and 160M. Amp was repaired by factory. Had I found the problem, I could have fixed it as it easy to get at.

The only other thing that would affect 80M alone is the bandswitch. For a while we suspected the buffer caps had opened or shorted. If you can't find the issue, call Anthony at AlphaPower.

73

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Michael Wise
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:30 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Im hoping someone can give me a little bit of help I have a Alpha 87a that has been working flawlessly. Yesteday I went to make a contact on 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17. I have checked all my cables,removed the tuner Palstar At-Auto out of line. I am using a dummy load and I still have the problem it faults on all bands except 160 meters (I get full power on 160 with 45 watt drive) Nothing has changed in my configuration. I used it the day before on 20 meters and it worked fine.

Mike, K4PRO

189. Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 15:01:17 UTC
From: Michael Wise
Topic: 186 Message: 189

Thanks Jim,

My problem is that all bands except 160 are giving me the fault 17.

I looked at everything and nothing looks burned out, in fact the clapper looks almost new, no burn marks at all.

I would like to avoid sending this back, money is getting scarce in my household. Shipping alone back and fourth is about $275.

Mike, K4PRO

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Mike
>
> Check the "clapper" relay with contacts above the rf plate choke. My contacts burned out disabling both 80M and 160M. Amp was repaired by factory. Had I found the problem, I could have fixed it as it easy to get at.
>
> The only other thing that would affect 80M alone is the bandswitch. For a while we suspected the buffer caps had opened or shorted. If you can't find the issue, call Anthony at AlphaPower.
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Michael Wise
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:30 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters
>
>
> Im hoping someone can give me a little bit of help I have a Alpha 87a
> that has been working flawlessly. Yesteday I went to make a contact on
> 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17. I have
> checked all my cables,removed the tuner Palstar At-Auto out of line. I

> am using a dummy load and I still have the problem it faults on
all
> bands except 160 meters (I get full power on 160 with 45 watt
drive)
> Nothing has changed in my configuration. I used it the day
before on
> 20 meters and it worked fine.
>
> Mike, K4PRO
>

190. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-20 15:18:10 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 186 Message: 190

Mike

I understand. Sounds like maybe bandswitch contact alignment may have shifted for all bands except 160. That is unusual - I agree. Check contact alignment carefully. I would check continuity from plate cap across individual switch contacts. Does it act the same manually selecting band buttons/segments??

Yes, my trip to Alpha set me back over $500 including shipment for that relay. I could kick myself but I still don't understand exactly what that rf choke relay has to do with 80/160 operation.

If you can't find the problem, call Molly or Anthony at the factory. They were most supportive trubleshooting my issue even though they got it wrong.

73

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Michael Wise
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 8:01 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Thanks Jim,

My problem is that all bands except 160 are giving me the fault 17.

I looked at everything and nothing looks burned out, in fact the clapper looks almost new, no burn marks at all.

I would like to avoid sending this back, money is getting scarce in my household. Shipping alone back and fourth is about $275.

Mike, K4PRO

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> Mike
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> Check the "clapper" relay with contacts above the rf plate choke.
My contacts burned out disabling both 80M and 160M. Amp was
repaired by factory. Had I found the problem, I could have fixed it
as it easy to get at.
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> The only other thing that would affect 80M alone is the

bandswitch. For a while we suspected the buffer caps had opened or
shorted. If you can't find the issue, call Anthony at AlphaPower.
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Michael Wise
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:30 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters
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> Im hoping someone can give me a little bit of help I have a
Alpha 87a
> that has been working flawlessly. Yesteday I went to make a
contact on
> 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17. I
have
> checked all my cables,removed the tuner Palstar At-Auto out of
line. I
> am using a dummy load and I still have the problem it faults on
all
> bands except 160 meters (I get full power on 160 with 45 watt
drive)
> Nothing has changed in my configuration. I used it the day
before on
> 20 meters and it worked fine.
>
> Mike, K4PRO
>

191. Re: 80/160M Padding Capacitor Update

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-23 15:37:48 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 179 Message: 191

Jim,

I have a theory about what caused your plate choke relay contacts to burn.

The plate choke relay switches a capacitor into the plate choke circuit when operating on frequencies from 7 MHz and higher. The relay is open when operating on 160m and 80m. These bands require the plate choke to have extra inductance. But if the extra inductance is left in the circuit on the higher bands, series resonance can occur at certain places in the choke, which in turn causes large RF current or voltage to exist. Depending on the location, this can cause the choke windings to melt or can cause an arc to a nearby metal part. The capacitor switched in by the plate choke relay avoids this problem.

If the plate choke relay fails to close on one of the bands from 40m and up, a series resonance can cause an arc across the relay contacts.

How could this possibly happen? Well, about 11 years ago, I discovered a bug in the original 87A firmware where the plate choke relay fails to close when the amp switches by RF sense (not manually) from 160m or 80m to the lowest subsegment of 40m, namely 7.000 MHz to 7.019 MHz. The bug only occurs in this narrow set of circumstances. The relay does the right thing when the segment is switched manually or when switching to the bottom of 40m by RF sense from a higher band (i.e., the relay stays closed.)

I discovered the bug because plate tuning was sometimes way out of whack when I operated from 7.000 MHz - 7.019 MHz. This is because I tuned the lowest segment at 7.050 MHz, according to instructions, and the plate choke relay was correctly activated in that part of the band. The tuning was then way off in the 7.000-7.019 range because the capacitor wasn't being switched into the plate choke circuit when I switched from 160m or 80m.

I called Alpha and the then-President of the company handled the call himself (a nice British fellow whose name I don't recall.) He had a firmware patch for me by the end of the day.

If your amp has the bug, then repeated operation from 7.000 MHz - 7.019 MHz after switching from 160m or 80m could have caused arcs that damaged the relay contacts. That kind of damage can cause the contacts to fuse when the relay is closed on the higher bands, and then they might not let go when the relay is supposed to open upon switching to 160m or 80m. The extra capacitance in the circuit would mess up the tuning on those bands.

I'm pretty sure the bug was fixed when the AlphaMax firmware was released. If you have that feature in your amp (which I highly recommend), then it's less likely that the plate choke relay bug caused the damage. However, it's still possible -- the relay may have been damaged prior to upgrading the firmware.

If your amp still has the original firmware, and it's still at the factory, have Alpha check to make sure the plate choke relay patch has been applied. If the amp is already on the way back to you, I can email you complete instructions for how to apply the patch. It's easy, provided you have an RS-232 connection to the amp and know how to use it. Even if you do the patch, I'd recommend upgrading to AlphaMax, especially if you have multiple antennas for one or more bands.

Just a theory, but it makes sense, particularly since Alpha seems baffled as to the cause of the damage.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Mollie called. Amp is fixed. Tech reported amp is in great shape.
35W
> in and 1500w out. Problem was not blown padding cap as suspected.
> They found burned contacts on a "clapper" relay which is located
near
> plate rf choke?!? I am not sure what its function is and why it
only
> affected 80/160 ops. Their guess is relay failed to pull-in
> properly. Hopefully this is a rare event. They say my usage did
not
> bring on the failure. They return 3 day air with amp carton
strapped
> onto a pallet for max protection. Pricey event but at least I know
that
> amp/tubes are in great shape for an 18 yr old amp with original
tubes.
> I am a DXer/Contestor so amp gets a work-out. It does not get
abused
> or operated beyond spec limits. I do a good deal of RTTY so
external
> fan is definitely value added.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

192. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 80/160M Padding Capacitor Update

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-23 15:55:32 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 179 Message: 192

Dick

I really appreciate your thoughtful analysis of this issue. I bought the amp in 2006. It was built in 94. The first thing I did was install AlphaMax but the relay damage could have already started by then. The guy I bought it from was primarily a 75M ssb op but he was not original owner.

If you think patch might help over and above AlphaMax, send it along. AlphaPower said my firmware was current with addition of AlphaMax. However, your patch may add an extra layer of protection against this issue. Please also describe procedure to load patch into firmware.

I queried AlphaPower about this fault and they led me to believe it was rare. They replaced the relay. They made no comment about installing a patch. Yes, I do operate low end of 40M somewhat. This problem only developed recently and affected only 80/160M. Amplifier has been returned to me.

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Dick Green
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 8:37 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 80/160M Padding Capacitor Update

Jim,

I have a theory about what caused your plate choke relay contacts to burn.

The plate choke relay switches a capacitor into the plate choke circuit when operating on frequencies from 7 MHz and higher. The relay is open when operating on 160m and 80m. These bands require the plate choke to have extra inductance. But if the extra inductance is left in the circuit on the higher bands, series resonance can occur at certain places in the choke, which in turn causes large RF current or voltage to exist. Depending on the location, this can cause the choke windings to melt or can cause an arc to a nearby metal part. The capacitor switched in by the plate choke relay avoids this problem.

If the plate choke relay fails to close on one of the bands from 40m and up, a series resonance can cause an arc across the relay contacts.

How could this possibly happen? Well, about 11 years ago, I discovered a bug in the original 87A firmware where the plate choke

relay fails to close when the amp switches by RF sense (not manually) from 160m or 80m to the lowest subsegment of 40m, namely 7.000 MHz to 7.019 MHz. The bug only occurs in this narrow set of circumstances. The relay does the right thing when the segment is switched manually or when switching to the bottom of 40m by RF sense from a higher band (i.e., the relay stays closed.)

I discovered the bug because plate tuning was sometimes way out of whack when I operated from 7.000 MHz - 7.019 MHz. This is because I tuned the lowest segment at 7.050 MHz, according to instructions, and the plate choke relay was correctly activated in that part of the band. The tuning was then way off in the 7.000-7.019 range because the capacitor wasn't being switched into the plate choke circuit when I switched from 160m or 80m.

I called Alpha and the then-President of the company handled the call himself (a nice British fellow whose name I don't recall.) He had a firmware patch for me by the end of the day.

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I'm pretty sure the bug was fixed when the AlphaMax firmware was released. If you have that feature in your amp (which I highly recommend), then it's less likely that the plate choke relay bug caused the damage. However, it's still possible -- the relay may have been damaged prior to upgrading the firmware.

If your amp still has the original firmware, and it's still at the factory, have Alpha check to make sure the plate choke relay patch has been applied. If the amp is already on the way back to you, I can email you complete instructions for how to apply the patch. It's easy, provided you have an RS-232 connection to the amp and know how to use it. Even if you do the patch, I'd recommend upgrading to AlphaMax, especially if you have multiple antennas for one or more bands.

Just a theory, but it makes sense, particularly since Alpha seems baffled as to the cause of the damage.

73, Dick WC1M

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<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
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> Mollie called. Amp is fixed. Tech reported amp is in great shape.
35W

> in and 1500w out. Problem was not blown padding cap as suspected.
> They found burned contacts on a "clapper" relay which is located
near
> plate rf choke?!? I am not sure what its function is and why it
only
> affected 80/160 ops. Their guess is relay failed to pull-in
> properly. Hopefully this is a rare event. They say my usage did
not
> bring on the failure. They return 3 day air with amp carton
strapped
> onto a pallet for max protection. Pricey event but at least I know
that
> amp/tubes are in great shape for an 18 yr old amp with original
tubes.
> I am a DXer/Contestor so amp gets a work-out. It does not get
abused
> or operated beyond spec limits. I do a good deal of RTTY so
external
> fan is definitely value added.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

193. Fitting new tubes ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-23 16:48:22 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 193 Message: 193

Hi all,
anyone tried running their 87A with pair of new Eimac 3CPX800A7s.
I know I will have to remove or get shorter stubs that screw to the
top case to hold them down, as these are a bit taller. But apart from
that, any other things I should know?

Paul G0HWC
Station details on my site
http://www.g0hwc.com

194. Alpha 87 For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 02:26:04 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 194 Message: 194

SN91060008

I have for sale an Alpha 87A, cosmetically a 9 (few very small scratches on top) electrically a 10. All latest Alpha upgrades have been done (by Alpha) and includes AlphaMax and the original Manual. Good strong tubes that will exceed the legal limit. No modifications, non-smoker. I do not have the original shipping boxes but I will get it professionally packed and shipped. Reason for selling this amp is so I can buy a 7800.

I can send pictures if requested.

$5000 no trades, firm price, ship USA only. You pay shipping I estimate

$150 in US. PayPal or personal check (will ship after it clears)

73, Al K3TKJ

195. Re: [Alpha87a] Fitting new tubes ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 03:30:46 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 193 Message: 195

Paul,

I have been using 3cpx800s for over a year, and as you said, the
ceramic tube hold downs will have to be shortened or removed.. Other
than that, there are not been any issue.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> anyone tried running their 87A with pair of new Eimac 3CPX800A7s.
> I know I will have to remove or get shorter stubs that screw to the
> top case to hold them down, as these are a bit taller. But apart from
> that, any other things I should know?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> Station details on my site
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1629 - Release Date: 8/23/2008 1:16 PM
>

No virus found in this outgoing message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1629 - Release Date: 8/23/2008 1:16 PM

196. Re: Fitting new tubes ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 04:53:36 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 193 Message: 196

I find the 3cpx thread interesting. Fortunately, my 14 year old 87A original tubes are in great shape per Alphapower. I asked Anthony about the 3cpx800A as spare tubes and he said they don't recommend them - something about the grids. I don't recall the details. The tubes they sell have special grid characteristics and they are matched sets. Surprisingly, their prices were not much greater than those quoted by RF Parts for the 3cpx800A's. That's all I know. Call Anthony at AlphaPower for more details.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dudley Hurry <jhurry@...> wrote:
>
> Paul,
>
> I have been using 3cpx800s for over a year, and as you said, the
> ceramic tube hold downs will have to be shortened or removed.. Other
> than that, there are not been any issue.
>
> 73,
> Dudley
>
> WA5QPZ
>
>
>
> Paul Young wrote:
> >
> > Hi all,
> > anyone tried running their 87A with pair of new Eimac 3CPX800A7s.
> > I know I will have to remove or get shorter stubs that screw to the
> > top case to hold them down, as these are a bit taller. But apart from
> > that, any other things I should know?
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > Station details on my site
> > http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> > Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1629 - Release Date:
8/23/2008 1:16 PM
> >

>
>
> No virus found in this outgoing message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1629 - Release Date:
8/23/2008 1:16 PM
>

197. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 16:16:10 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 194 Message: 197

What are you asking for it? Where are you located?

----- Original Message ----
From: Al Waller <k3tkj@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups..com
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 7:26:04 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 For Sale

SN91060008

I have for sale an Alpha 87A, cosmetically a 9 (few very small scratches on top) electrically a 10. All latest Alpha upgrades have been done (by Alpha) and includes AlphaMax and the original Manual. Good strong tubes that will exceed the legal limit. No modifications, non-smoker. I do not have the original shipping boxes but I will get it professionally packed and shipped. Reason for selling this amp is so I can buy a 7800.

I can send pictures if requested.

$5000 no trades, firm price, ship USA only. You pay shipping I estimate $150 in US. PayPal or personal check (will ship after it clears)

73, Al K3TKJ
__..._,_.___
Messages in this topic (1) Reply (via web post) | Start a new topic
Messages | Files | Photos | Links | Database | Polls | Members | Calendar

Change settings via the Web (Yahoo! ID required)
Change settings via email: Switch delivery to Daily Digest | Switch format to Traditional
Visit Your Group | Yahoo! Groups Terms of Use | Unsubscribe
Recent Activity
* 3
New MembersVisit Your Group
Real Food Group
Share recipes
and favorite meals
w/ Real Food lovers.
Moderator Central
Yahoo! Groups
Join and receive
produce updates.
Special K Group
on Yahoo! Groups
Join the challenge
and lose weight.
.

198. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 16:19:20 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 194 Message: 198

I think he looking $5000

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Smith
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 5:16 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 For Sale

What are you asking for it? Where are you located?

----- Original Message ----
From: Al Waller <k3tkj@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2008 7:26:04 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 For Sale

SN91060008

I have for sale an Alpha 87A, cosmetically a 9 (few very small scratches on top) electrically a 10. All latest Alpha upgrades have been done (by Alpha) and includes AlphaMax and the original Manual. Good strong tubes that will exceed the legal limit. No modifications, non-smoker. I do not have the original shipping boxes but I will get it professionally packed and shipped. Reason for selling this amp is so I can buy a 7800.

I can send pictures if requested.

$5000 no trades, firm price, ship USA only. You pay shipping I estimate

$150 in US. PayPal or personal check (will ship after it clears)

73, Al K3TKJ

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1629 - Release Date: 23/08/2008 13:16

199. Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 22:08:44 UTC
From: Michael Wise
Topic: 186 Message: 199

Thanks for your help Jim.

I finally got and email back from Alpha late last week they had me run a test using hyperterminal. They told me they thought it was one or more failed 1N5711 in the input metering board. I sent them the results of the test in hyperterminal. I have yet to get a reply back from them. I went ahead and took a chance at pulling the metering board out and tested the 1n5711 Diodes all four showed some voltage leakage but not major, one showed much more than the other three, so I had a friend of mine Mike, K4CVL go up to Sarasota Electronics and pick up 6 Diodes. I had them put in and the amplifier put back together within 45 minutes. The end result $5.86 and about 1 1/2 hours time I had my Alpha back up and running 100%.

I guess I got lucky this time.

If you or anyone knows why these diodes would break down, I sure would like to know. I am the second owner of this Alpha, I only drive it with 50 watts. So unless the original owner was hard on it, I see no reason why they should have failed.

Mike, K4PRO

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> Mike
>
> I understand. Sounds like maybe bandswitch contact alignment may
have shifted for all bands except 160. That is unusual - I agree.
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> Yes, my trip to Alpha set me back over $500 including shipment for
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> If you can't find the problem, call Molly or Anthony at the
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> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG

>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Michael Wise
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 8:01 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@>
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> > From: Michael Wise
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:30 AM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters
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> > 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17.
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>

200. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-24 23:35:19 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 186 Message: 200

Mike

Glad to help. You got lucky. I have no idea why that diode died. You saved a lot of $ with your own repair.

My plate choke relay failure is another mystery. WC1M has sent me data about a mysterious firmware bug which has caused the relay to open when it should be closed that pops up on the low end of 40M. This allows relay to arc and welds contacts closed which detunes amp on 80/160M. I am investigating a patch he has developed to kill the bug. I will speak to AlphaPower next week about this.

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Michael Wise
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 3:08 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Thanks for your help Jim.

I finally got and email back from Alpha late last week they had me run a test using hyperterminal. They told me they thought it was one or more failed 1N5711 in the input metering board. I sent them the results of the test in hyperterminal. I have yet to get a reply back from them. I went ahead and took a chance at pulling the metering board out and tested the 1n5711 Diodes all four showed some voltage leakage but not major, one showed much more than the other three, so I had a friend of mine Mike, K4CVL go up to Sarasota Electronics and pick up 6 Diodes. I had them put in and the amplifier put back together within 45 minutes. The end result $5.86 and about 1 1/2 hours time I had my Alpha back up and running 100%.

I guess I got lucky this time.

If you or anyone knows why these diodes would break down, I sure would like to know. I am the second owner of this Alpha, I only drive it with 50 watts. So unless the original owner was hard on it, I see no reason why they should have failed.

Mike, K4PRO

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
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> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:30 AM
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201. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-25 00:03:24 UTC
From: Michael Wise
Topic: 186 Message: 201

I would be interested to see what they say. Please keep me in the loop.

Mike, K4PRO

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim Denneny
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 7:35 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Mike

Glad to help. You got lucky. I have no idea why that diode died. You saved a lot of $ with your own repair.

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Jim

K7EG

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Wise <mailto:k4pro@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2008 3:08 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Thanks for your help Jim.

I finally got and email back from Alpha late last week they had me run a test using hyperterminal. They told me they thought it was one or more failed 1N5711 in the input metering board. I sent them the results of the test in hyperterminal. I have yet to get a reply back from them. I went ahead and took a chance at pulling the metering board out and tested the 1n5711 Diodes all four showed some voltage leakage but not major, one showed much more than the other three, so I had a friend of mine Mike, K4CVL go up to Sarasota Electronics and pick up 6 Diodes. I had them put in and the amplifier put back together within 45 minutes. The end result $5.86 and about 1 1/2

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_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 3383 (20080824) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

202. New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-25 12:37:31 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 202 Message: 202

Hi all,

My new (to me) 87A turned up today on a big wooden pallet. I have installed the transformer in accordance with the manual and plugged the 3 plugs in. I am running it on 240V 50hz downunder.

My issue is that I can get any amplification out of it. All I see is what I put in. I have tried using a dummy load and an antenna. The amp waits 3 mins at turn on and then goes into operate mode as expected. It will change into standby if I flick the switch.

When I xmit however nothing happens, no recognition of band, no relay noises, no additional power out. No fault codes appear. HV looks OK, Fans work perfectly.

I have sent an email off to Alpha (as it was reconditioned beofre it left the factory), but I am sure its something simple but can't figure it out.

Any suggestions welcome.

73 de vk5jjj

203. Re: [Alpha87a] New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-25 12:48:56 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 202 Message: 203

Hi Chris,
are you sure your radio is keying the relay? the phono directly above the rf input.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Christopher Platt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 1:37 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Hi all,

My new (to me) 87A turned up today on a big wooden pallet. I have installed the transformer in accordance with the manual and plugged the 3 plugs in. I am running it on 240V 50hz downunder.

My issue is that I can get any amplification out of it. All I see is what I put in. I have tried using a dummy load and an antenna. The amp waits 3 mins at turn on and then goes into operate mode as expected. It will change into standby if I flick the switch.

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I have sent an email off to Alpha (as it was reconditioned beofre it left the factory), but I am sure its something simple but can't figure it out.

Any suggestions welcome.

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No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1631 - Release Date: 24/08/2008 12:15

204. Re: [Alpha87a] New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-25 13:10:46 UTC
From: Al Waller, K3TKJ
Topic: 202 Message: 204

Sounds like a keying line problem from the transceiver. I would check that first

Al

205. RE: [Alpha87a] New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-25 13:49:56 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 202 Message: 205

Thanks Paul and Al,

I connected the extra lead from my footswitch and all works perfectly!.

73 de Chris VK5JJJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Paul Young
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 10:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] New Alpha 87A owner (with an issue)

Hi Chris,
are you sure your radio is keying the relay? the phono directly
above the rf input.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc. <http://www.g0hwc.com> com

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My issue is that I can get any amplification out of it. All I see is
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Any suggestions welcome.

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No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com

Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.7/1631 - Release Date: 24/08/2008
12:15

206. 87A plate choke relay bug and patch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-28 21:26:38 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 206 Message: 206

Hello all,

If you've been following K7EG's thread on his 160m/80m problem, you know that he sent the amp back to the factory and they traced the problem to damaged contacts on his plate choke relay. The factory determined that the 160m/80m problem was likely being caused by the relay not opening as it should on the two lowest bands, probably due to the damaged relay contacts. However, they were not able to come up with an explanation for how the contacts came to be damaged.

I posted a message speculating that the contacts could have been damaged if Jim's amp had a bug I discovered 11 years ago in the original 87A firmware. The bug caused the plate choke relay not to close when retuning from 160m or 80m to the very lowest segment of 40m (7.000-7.019 MHz) via RF sense. If the plate choke relay doesn't switch in extra capacitance, as it's supposed to do on the higher bands, series resonances in the plate choke can damage the windings or cause an arc across the contacts. My theory was that such an arc could have damaged the plate choke relay contacts in Jim's amp.

However, I didn't think the bug could exist in Jim's amp because most 87As have been updated to the AlphaMax firmware, and I thought the bug had been fixed in that version. I figured the contacts had been damaged back before Jim's firmware was updated, and just happened to cross the threshold to a point where they started to stick.

But when I gave instructions to Jim for determining whether his amp has the bug, and displaying the relevant locations in the firmware, it turned out his amp did not have the patch. This came as a surprise to the factory -- like me, they thought the bug had been patched in the firmware. The factory recommended that Jim patch the firmware, and he has done so.

In case others among you have 87As with the plate choke relay bug, I've posted a document describing the problem, how to test for the bug, and how to patch the firmware. It's on my website at www.wc1m.com. Click on Downloads at the bottom of the navigation bar on the left, click on Alpha 87A Plate Choke Patch, then click on the file name.

CAUTION: IF NOT DONE CORRECTLY, PATCHING THE FIRMWARE IN YOUR AMP COULD DISABLE THE AMP AND/OR CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE THAT WOULD REQUIRE SENDING THE AMP BACK TO THE FACTORY. READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY AND FOLLOW THEM CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE FACTORY FOR HELP. DISCLAIMER: I TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCUMENT OR ANY CONSEQUENCES

FROM USING THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS.

Up to now, I've been reluctant to publish this information because patching firmware can be a delicate operation and I didn't want to open Pandora's box for 87A owners or Alpha. Also, I was under the impression that the bug had been fixed in the AlphaMax firmware. Finally, I was not aware that the series resonances could damage the relay contacts. The symptom that drove me to discover the bug and get the patch was a mysterious and seemingly intermittent problem tuning the 87A at the bottom of 40m. If I had known the consequences could be more serious, I would have posted the document long ago.

73, Dick WC1M

207. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A plate choke relay bug and patch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-28 22:16:05 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 206 Message: 207

Many thanks for that patch info Dick,

Mine had rom ver 1.00 AT as I upgraded my amp last year with Alpha Max
and the patch still needed to be done.

Worked a treat.....

Many thanks

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

PS: for future reference, any chance of having this file uploaded into the files section of the group?
I know that Alpha are a bit funny about giving infomation to each other.
I needed to do a reset on mine after a shutdown and Molly sent me the details or the 20 or so memory locations to update..

----- Original Message -----
From: Dick Green
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2008 10:26 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A plate choke relay bug and patch

In case others among you have 87As with the plate choke relay bug,
I've posted a document describing the problem, how to test for the
bug, and how to patch the firmware. It's on my website at
www.wc1m.com. Click on Downloads at the bottom of the navigation bar
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73, Dick WC1M

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.6.10/1638 - Release Date: 27/08/2008 19:06

208. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A plate choke relay bug and patch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-08-29 20:52:23 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 206 Message: 208

Dick,

First I want to sincerely thank you for making this issue available to the "masses" of 87A users and all your continuing support and work with the Alpha Amp Products..

I want to emphasize to everyone with a 87A amp to go through the procedure to verify if they even need to make the update, it might not be needed on your amp. I had purchased my amp used, needed repairs, and I updated it to the AlphaMax with the firmware update in late 2001, using VER command, I showed 1.00-AT, running the "test", I did hear the click when I injected 7.010 rf with the amp previously set for 3.510.

Thanks again for all your hard work, and letting the rest of us know.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Dick Green wrote:
>
> Hello all,
>
> If you've been following K7EG's thread on his 160m/80m problem, you
> know that he sent the amp back to the factory and they traced the
> problem to damaged contacts on his plate choke relay. The factory
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> relay not opening as it should on the two lowest bands, probably due
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> CAUTION: IF NOT DONE CORRECTLY, PATCHING THE FIRMWARE IN YOUR AMP
> COULD DISABLE THE AMP AND/OR CAUSE PERMANENT DAMAGE THAT WOULD
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> Up to now, I've been reluctant to publish this information because
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> Finally, I was not aware that the series resonances could damage the
> relay contacts. The symptom that drove me to discover the bug and get
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> the 87A at the bottom of 40m. If I had known the consequences could
> be more serious, I would have posted the document long ago.
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> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>

209. 87 Hardware upgrades ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-01 20:45:48 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 209 Message: 209

Hi all,
I just found a refurbished Alpha 87a on ebay. the seller is
listed as Alpha Radio. saying it will be shiped direct form the factory.
It says has all upgrades firmware and hardware.
What are the hardware upgrades ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

210. Alpha 87a Forsale price reduced

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-01 21:28:41 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 210 Message: 210

SN91060008

I have for sale an Alpha 87A, cosmetically a 9 (few very small scratches on top) electrically a 10. All latest Alpha upgrades have been done (by Alpha) and includes AlphaMax and the original Manual. Good strong tubes that will exceed the legal limit. No modifications, non-smoker. I do not have the original shipping boxes but I will get it professionally packed and shipped. Reason for selling this amp is so I can buy a 7800.

I can send pictures if requested.

$4500 no trades, firm price. You pay shipping. PayPal only

73, Al K3TKJ

211. Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-09 19:39:55 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 211 Message: 211

Hi all,
over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the motor, well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the bearings of the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a small hole to oil the bearing ???

I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the RF deck but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and would i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
PS: I also have the external fan fitted

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

212. Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-09 20:01:04 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 211 Message: 212

Hi Paul,

I've removed and replaced the fan before, and helped Alpha by rewriting
their instructions and including photos. You can find the "how to"
details at:

http://alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp

Click on the Replacement Blower Instructions for the 87a.

It's not an overwhelming task, but it does take patience. Alpha sells
the fan as a unit for $150.

http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PLST&Store_Code=AS

Cheers,

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and
> louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big
> job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the motor,
> well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the bearings of
> the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a small hole
> to oil the bearing ???
>
> I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the RF deck
> but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and would
> i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
> PS: I also have the external fan fitted
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>

213. Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-10 06:38:44 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 211 Message: 213

Paul,

I oil the blower with one drop of paraffin clean oil once a year, along
with swapping a spare set of tubes in the amp.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and
> louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big
> job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the motor,
> well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the bearings of
> the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a small hole
> to oil the bearing ???
>
> I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the RF deck
> but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and would
> i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
> PS: I also have the external fan fitted
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>
>

214. Re:Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-10 16:49:56 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 211 Message: 214

Paul:

I replaced the outer blower motor recently and was amazed at how much quieter it is. I bought it from Newark Electronics and it was an identical replacement. It is an EBMPAPST 4580Z, 230VAC, 50Hz Ma 13W-230VACl60Hz 70ma 12W. The blower cost was $35.51, and the shipping was less than $10. The NEWARK SKU # is 86K9857. If the inside blower is not identical to this, the ID infor is on the blower and I am sure it is also available from

John Owens - N7TK

215. Re: Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-11 13:50:34 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 211 Message: 215

Hi Paul

I placed 2 fotos of the replacement fan assembly of Alpha Power

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and
> louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big
> job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the
motor,
> well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the
bearings of
> the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a small
hole
> to oil the bearing ???
>
> I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the RF
deck
> but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and
would
> i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
> PS: I also have the external fan fitted
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

216. Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-11 14:35:51 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 211 Message: 216

Hi Dudley,
where do you put the oil into the internal fan ?

Paul G0HWC

----- Original Message -----
From: Dudley Hurry
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2008 7:38 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud

Paul,

I oil the blower with one drop of paraffin clean oil once a year, along with swapping a spare set of tubes in the amp.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Paul Young wrote:
Hi all,
over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and
louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big
job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the motor,
well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the bearings of
the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a small hole
to oil the bearing ???

I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the RF deck
but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and would
i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
PS: I also have the external fan fitted

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.169 / Virus Database: 270.6.19/1663 - Release Date: 09/09/2008 19:04

217. Re: Fault 17 on all bands except 160 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-11 14:58:51 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 186 Message: 217

Check the plate choke clapper relay.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Michael Wise" <k4pro@...> wrote:
>
> Im hoping someone can give me a little bit of help I have a Alpha 87a
> that has been working flawlessly. Yesteday I went to make a contact on
> 75 meters and as soon as I modulated it Faulted with Fault 17. I have
> checked all my cables,removed the tuner Palstar At-Auto out of line. I
> am using a dummy load and I still have the problem it faults on all
> bands except 160 meters (I get full power on 160 with 45 watt drive)
> Nothing has changed in my configuration. I used it the day before on
> 20 meters and it worked fine.
>
> Mike, K4PRO
>

218. Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-12 22:45:11 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 211 Message: 218

One drop on the shaft that I can see from the rear and one drop on the shaft internal that I can see, get to with the tubes out, either a long oil tube dropper or a long then screwdriver with a drop of oil running down the shaft.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Paul Young wrote:
>
> Hi Dudley,
> where do you put the oil into the internal fan ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Dudley Hurry <mailto:jhurry@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> *Sent:* Wednesday, September 10, 2008 7:38 AM
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Fan getting loud
>
> Paul,
>
> I oil the blower with one drop of paraffin clean oil once a year,
> along with swapping a spare set of tubes in the amp.
>
>
> 73,
> Dudley
>
> WA5QPZ
>
>
>
>
> Paul Young wrote:
>>
>> Hi all,
>> over time the internal fan in my 87a is getting louder and
>> louder, I was going to remove it for a service but looks a real big
>> job!! Tonight via the hole at the back of the amp I touched the
>> motor,

>> well the bit you can touch. I guess this part is one of the
>> bearings of
>> the motor? Well it was very hot, has anyone tried drilling a
>> small hole
>> to oil the bearing ???
>>
>> I just don't fancy the big job of getting it out from under the
>> RF deck
>> but if this is my only option can the motor still be got new? and
>> would
>> i need the whole thing or just a new motor.
>> PS: I also have the external fan fitted
>>
>> Paul G0HWC
>> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>>
> ----------
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.169 / Virus Database: 270.6.19/1663 - Release Date:
> 09/09/2008 19:04
>
>

219. 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-14 14:55:49 UTC
From: wa5zup
Topic: 219 Message: 219

Hi guys

I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs

I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.

Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?

How well does it play with the Alpha 87?

Does it handle the power?

Any auto tuning issues together, etc?

I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.

Thanks

John wa5zup

220. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-14 15:04:46 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 219 Message: 220

John

I have been using the exact same station you mentioned for over 1 year with
no issues. I am pleased with the Palstar.

Tom
K4XG

In a message dated 9/14/2008 9:56:43 A.M. Central Daylight Time,
wa5zup@... writes:

Hi guys
I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs
I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.
Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?
How well does it play with the Alpha 87?
Does it handle the power?
Any auto tuning issues together, etc?
I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.
Thanks
John wa5zup

**********Psssst...Have you heard the news? There's a new fashion blog,
plus the latest fall trends and hair styles at StyleList.com.
(http://www.stylelist.com/trends?ncid=aolsty00050000000014)

221. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-14 15:14:09 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 219 Message: 221

Hi John,
Never thought about a auto ATU on mine...
I use a Palstar AT1500CV on the back on my 87a, works a treat...

Paul G0HWC
http://g0hwc.com/station_details.htm

----- Original Message -----
From: wa5zup
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2008 3:55 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Hi guys

I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs

I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.

Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?

How well does it play with the Alpha 87?

Does it handle the power?

Any auto tuning issues together, etc?

I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.

Thanks

John wa5zup

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.169 / Virus Database: 270.6.21/1670 - Release Date: 13/09/2008 12:50

222. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-14 15:16:49 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 219 Message: 222

John,

I know several hams using the Palstar AT auto-tuner along with the 87A and I believe they subscribe to this reflector. So they will respond, I am sure. From my time spent in gathering the same information, users of the AT auto-tuner report that the tuner handles the power OK. But I believe you will find in actuality that the answer as to how well it handles the power will vary with each installation most largely due to the antenna you are planning to tune on 75/80 meters...how close to resonance it is and how much of the band you plan on using, etc.

I have the Palstar AT4K antenna tuner. Of course it is not auto-tune. However, by taking time to develop presets I am able to match my antennas very quickly. What takes the most time is band changes of course where I must crank the inductor AND set the input/output variable capacitors. But still, we are talking less than 30 seconds for band changes and 5 seconds or less if I am making minor frequency changes within the same band. The AT4K is bigger but it also has much greater power handling capabilities and perhaps greater efficiencies.

Both tuners are quality tuners. I put Palstar products at the top of the heap in their product categories. You won't go wrong with choosing either one.

Jim
KBØX

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa5zup
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2008 9:56 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Hi guys

I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs

I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.

Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?

How well does it play with the Alpha 87?

Does it handle the power?

Any auto tuning issues together, etc?

I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.

Thanks

John wa5zup

223. Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 76

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-15 11:19:23 UTC
From: Bill Axelrod
Topic: 223 Message: 223

Alpha 87A AmplifiersJohn,

I use the Palstar AT-auto with my Alpha 87A and it works perfectly. It tunes easily, handles the legal limit, and the Alpha likes it.

73... Bill K3WA
----- Original Message -----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 6:49 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 76

Alpha 87A Amplifiers
Messages In This Digest (4 Messages)
1a. 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: wa5zup
1b. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: tneill1648@...
1c. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: Paul Young
1d. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: Jim Walker
View All Topics | Create New Topic Messages
1a. 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner
Posted by: "wa5zup" wa5zup@... wa5zup
Sun Sep 14, 2008 7:56 am (PDT)
Hi guys

I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs

I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.

Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?

How well does it play with the Alpha 87?

Does it handle the power?

Any auto tuning issues together, etc?

I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.

Thanks

John wa5zup

224. RE: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 76

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-15 11:36:29 UTC
From: wa5zup
Topic: 223 Message: 224

Thanks for all the replies.

I like the Palstar line of tuners.

It was a question of manual or auto.

In this modern world of auto everything□it just makes sense to continue in that direction

73 John wa5zup

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Bill Axelrod
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 5:19 AM
To: No Reply; Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 76

Alpha 87A AmplifiersJohn,

I use the Palstar AT-auto with my Alpha 87A and it works perfectly. It tunes easily, handles the legal limit, and the Alpha likes it.

73... Bill K3WA
----- Original Message -----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> s.com
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 6:49 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 76

Alpha 87A Amplifiers
Messages In This Digest (4 Messages)
1a. 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: wa5zup
1b. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: tneill1648@aol.
<mailto:tneill1648%40aol.com> com
1c. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: Paul Young
1d. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner From: Jim Walker
View All Topics | Create New Topic Messages
1a. 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner
Posted by: "wa5zup" wa5zup@... <mailto:wa5zup%40msn.com> wa5zup
Sun Sep 14, 2008 7:56 am (PDT)
Hi guys

I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs

I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.

Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?

How well does it play with the Alpha 87?

Does it handle the power?

Any auto tuning issues together, etc?

I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.

Thanks

John wa5zup

225. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-15 16:06:09 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 219 Message: 225

I have two AT-AUTO tuners, on on the Alpha 87A and one on an old Henry 3K console. They work well and can take the power. Also, Palstar's support is great.

Philip

wa5zup wrote:
> Hi guys
>
> I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs
>
> I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.
>
> Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?
>
> How well does it play with the Alpha 87?
>
> Does it handle the power?
>
> Any auto tuning issues together, etc?
>
> I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.
>
> Thanks
>
> John wa5zup
>
>

226. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-15 17:30:59 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 219 Message: 226

1) It certainly has no issues with 1500W PEP but 1500W key down might be pushing it. I use less on RTTY.

2) There is a proper way to set it up with an auto-tune amp. What you do is "train" the tuner across the band and then disable autonomous auto-tune. That way the tuner doesn't hunt causing the Alpha to also hunt which can cause the amp to fault.

3) there is a funny quirk with the AT-Auto. The memory band segments on 80 are 25KHz wide... but watch out... the first one ends on 3,501... so you need to train it on 3,500.9 or you might get a surprise like I did when I called a CW station a hair below 3,501 and the high SWR caused the amp to fault.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "wa5zup" <wa5zup@...> wrote:
>
> Hi guys
>
> I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs
>
> I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.
>
> Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?
>
> How well does it play with the Alpha 87?
>
> Does it handle the power?
>
> Any auto tuning issues together, etc?
>
> I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.
>
> Thanks
>
> John wa5zup
>

227. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-15 19:13:30 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 219 Message: 227

I use mine at 1500 for RTTY contests. No issues. I do not let it "hunt" though.

Philip

Mel wrote:
> 1) It certainly has no issues with 1500W PEP but 1500W key down might
> be pushing it. I use less on RTTY.
>
> 2) There is a proper way to set it up with an auto-tune amp. What you
> do is "train" the tuner across the band and then disable autonomous
> auto-tune. That way the tuner doesn't hunt causing the Alpha to also
> hunt which can cause the amp to fault.
>
> 3) there is a funny quirk with the AT-Auto. The memory band segments
> on 80 are 25KHz wide... but watch out... the first one ends on
> 3,501... so you need to train it on 3,500.9 or you might get a
> surprise like I did when I called a CW station a hair below 3,501 and
> the high SWR caused the amp to fault.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "wa5zup" <wa5zup@...> wrote:
>> Hi guys
>>
>> I am tuner shopping. I need a tuner for 80mtrs
>>
>> I was looking at the Palstar AT-Auto tuner.
>>
>> Anyone using this combination (87A / AT-Auto tuner)?
>>
>> How well does it play with the Alpha 87?
>>
>> Does it handle the power?
>>
>> Any auto tuning issues together, etc?
>>
>> I have a Icom IC-756proIII radio.
>>
>> Thanks
>>
>> John wa5zup
>>
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------

>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

228. Alpha 87A Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-16 18:18:35 UTC
From: ve6sh
Topic: 228 Message: 228

I am selling my Alpha 87A as I have ordered an Alpha 9500.

s/n is 91350162 purchased by me in December 2007 with all upgrades. The amplifier was returned to Alpha in March 2008 for the following work:

1. Added RBIAS mod.
2. Replaced 1Meg resistors on plate choke.
3. Replaced Diodes in input wattmeter.
4. Aligned wattmeters.
5. Aligned bandswitch.
6. Tested amp on all bands and tested RX.
7. Re-routed blower wires.
8. Replaced various hardware that was wrong.

The amplifier has been used very sparingly since March. Copies of the RA and invoice for the work are available. Alpha rated the tubes as "good". The front is in very good shape. There are a few lite scratches on the cabinet (I have a bottle of Alpha touch up paint which I will include).

I have new Alpha shipping boxes and a new copy of the manual. As I am in VE6 this might appeal to Canadians as shipping should be reduced and there will be no GST charged (Shipping the unit from Alpha cost $US186 plus a brokerage fee).

$US4900. Please contact me off list. ve6sh@rac.ca

I also have a NOS Alpha DAS with original box and manual and a new Ratpak 6 pack antenna switch that can be worked into the sale (The DAS cost $425-it was new never used- and the antenna switch $236)

73

Tim VE6SH

229. 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-16 22:42:25 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 229 Message: 229

Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated 1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600. for a new matched pair.
RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the same lot?
RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
Any help would be appreciated.

230. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-16 22:54:05 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 229 Message: 230

Tomy

I spoke with Alpha last month about this. In addition to the matched pair, Anthony said the tubes are manufactured custom for Alpha. I don't remember the details. I believe it had something to do with grid construction and efficiency. He says they are a cut above.

He definitely does not recommend the RF Parts tubes with the pulse rating. Give Anthony a call and he will give you the details. I believe others have been using the RF Parts tube replacements. I would listen to their experience and decide. $1300 doesn't sound right. When I spoke with him recently, the quote was a couple hundred more for a pair of their tubes. If I planned to keep the amp for many years, I would go with the Alpha tubes.

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Tomy
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 3:42 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated
1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work
fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600. for a
new matched pair.
RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the same
lot?
RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
Any help would be appreciated.

231. Re: 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-16 23:09:55 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 229 Message: 231

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> Tomy
>
> I spoke with Alpha last month about this. In addition to the
matched pair, Anthony said the tubes are manufactured custom for
Alpha. I don't remember the details. I believe it had something to
do with grid construction and efficiency. He says they are a cut
above.
>
> He definitely does not recommend the RF Parts tubes with the pulse
rating. Give Anthony a call and he will give you the details. I
believe others have been using the RF Parts tube replacements. I
would listen to their experience and decide. $1300 doesn't sound
right. When I spoke with him recently, the quote was a couple
hundred more for a pair of their tubes. If I planned to keep the amp
for many years, I would go with the Alpha tubes.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
I think the pulse rating is the P in the tube number. I agree with
you on this. The number from RF Parts is 3CX800AH, no P. $1300 is the
price of the pair, of the same lot, from RF Parts. Thanks for your
input Jim. Appreciate it very much.

Tomy
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Tomy
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 3:42 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes
>
>
> Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are
dated
> 1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and
work
> fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600.
for a
> new matched pair.
> RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
> Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the
same

> lot?
> RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
> Any help would be appreciated.
>

232. Re: 87A and a Palstar AT-Auto Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-17 01:02:09 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 219 Message: 232

Fixed in ver 2.09 of the AT-Auto's firmware.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Mel" <MelJMartin@...> wrote:
>

> 3) there is a funny quirk with the AT-Auto. The memory band segments
> on 80 are 25KHz wide... but watch out... the first one ends on
> 3,501... so you need to train it on 3,500.9 or you might get a
> surprise like I did when I called a CW station a hair below 3,501 and
> the high SWR caused the amp to fault.
>

233. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-17 04:21:42 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 229 Message: 233

Tomy,

I have been running 3cpx800s in 87a for some time with no problems..
But sounds like one of your tubes has gone flat.. I've got a set of
pulls for $600, just give you an ideal what is available.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

Tomy wrote:
>
> Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated
> 1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work
> fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600. for a
> new matched pair.
> RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
> Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the same
> lot?
> RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
> Any help would be appreciated.
>
>

234. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-17 04:54:49 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 229 Message: 234

The ARP factory-specified tube for the 87A (and I think 89) is the YC-238. The YC-238 nomenclature-- instead of 3CX800-- is stenciled on the tube . This is a hand-picked, high-gain 3CX800 type tube with lower grid current; hence the premium price. ARP has stated that AlphaMax and other features of the amp work better with the 'matched' pair of YC-238.

--Glenn K6NA

At 03:54 PM 9/16/2008, you wrote:

>Tomy
>
>I spoke with Alpha last month about this. In addition to the
>matched pair, Anthony said the tubes are manufactured custom for
>Alpha. I don't remember the details. I believe it had something to
>do with grid construction and efficiency. He says they are a cut above.
>
>He definitely does not recommend the RF Parts tubes with the pulse
>rating. Give Anthony a call and he will give you the details. I
>believe others have been using the RF Parts tube replacements. I
>would listen to their experience and decide. $1300 doesn't sound
>right. When I spoke with him recently, the quote was a couple
>hundred more for a pair of their tubes. If I planned to keep the
>amp for many years, I would go with the Alpha tubes.
>
>Jim
>K7EG
>
>
>----- Original Message -----
>From: <mailto:kf7gc@...>Tomy
>To: <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 3:42 PM
>Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes
>
>Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated
>1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work
>fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600. for a
>new matched pair.
>RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
>Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the same
>lot?
>RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
>Any help would be appreciated.

235. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-17 05:05:41 UTC
From: Robert Markwood
Topic: 229 Message: 235

The Alpha response concerning using non pulse rated tubes is interesting. Pat Stein at Command Technologies would disagree with the advice from Alpha. This only confuses the issue. Pat is one of the most able people in the linear business as are the folks at Alpha. Along these lines, I have posed the same question to the Acom office in Medway, MA. I will pass along their response when received. My understanding is that they have substantial expertise and were sub-contractors for Apha at one time.

There is a very healthy debate concerning the sourcing of transmitting tubes. Fewer manufacturers are in the business, rebranding is a common practice and the rate of defective tubes is probably as high as it ever has been.

Are there any comments concerning sources of tubes?

I currently operate and Alpha 87A at one location and a Commander HF-2500 at the other. The Alpha is backed up by an AL82 and the Commander by an AL80B. I know this will torque some of you but I would argue there are advantages to the 3-500ZG tube, not the least of which is instantaneous operation and far lower replacement cost. Another statement designed for controversy....it is really the first 800 or so watts that make most of the difference. Before you heave too many bricks and dead cats, consider that I operate and own two of the big boys.

Bob....writing from the Middle East sand regions and looking forward to returning stateside

--- On Tue, 9/16/08, Tomy <kf7gc@arrl.net> wrote:
From: Tomy <kf7gc@...>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Tubes
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 5:09 PM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com, "Jim Denneny" <57JNDenneny@ ...>

wrote:

>

> Tomy

>

> I spoke with Alpha last month about this. In addition to the

matched pair, Anthony said the tubes are manufactured custom for

Alpha. I don't remember the details. I believe it had something to

do with grid construction and efficiency. He says they are a cut

above.

>

> He definitely does not recommend the RF Parts tubes with the pulse rating. Give Anthony a call and he will give you the details. I believe others have been using the RF Parts tube replacements. I would listen to their experience and decide. $1300 doesn't sound right. When I spoke with him recently, the quote was a couple hundred more for a pair of their tubes. If I planned to keep the amp for many years, I would go with the Alpha tubes.

>

> Jim

> K7EG

I think the pulse rating is the P in the tube number. I agree with you on this. The number from RF Parts is 3CX800AH, no P. $1300 is the price of the pair, of the same lot, from RF Parts. Thanks for your input Jim. Appreciate it very much.

Tomy

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Tomy

> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com

> Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 3:42 PM

> Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

>

>

> Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated

> 1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work

> fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600.

for a

> new matched pair.

> RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.

> Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the

same

> lot?

> RF said they sell tons of them all the time.

> Any help would be appreciated.

>

236. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-17 17:26:31 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 229 Message: 236

Hi all,
I recently picked up a new pair of Eimac 3CPX800A7's for $600 "thats for the pair"
I got them from Jan N0JR look up on QRZ.com for a email address or email me direct.

They are not pulls, they are medical over stock "new"
There will be a waiting list, I waited 5 months I think..

Hope this helps....
I have not used them yet as my 87a is ticking over fine, they are my backups...
To date I have not heard form anyone saying they had a problem with the "P"
tubes. But would like to hear from anyone that has 1st hand problems ???

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

237. Support from Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-20 22:18:59 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 237 Message: 237

Hi all,

Last week I tried to sort the the noise from my internal fan with no luck... I decided that I will have to buy a new one direct from Alpha but as their site did not give a price for postage I sent them a email asking about this. Well I sent the email and in the time it took me to make a cup of tea I got a reply from Molly with all the details I needed and placed the order. Order placed.....

Now thats what I call customer support :-) Molly has always been quick with responding to questions both tech or other. Thanks Molly
Its a pitty all ham suppliers are not the same.

I am still waiting to hear from anyone using the 3CPX800A7's in their 87a?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

238. Re: 87A Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-20 22:28:46 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 229 Message: 238

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tomy" <kf7gc@...> wrote:
>
> Just found out that the tubes in the 87A I just traded for, are dated
> 1990 by Alpha Radio. They said they are in fair condition and work
> fine at around 1300 watts and no more. Alpha wants about $1600. for a
> new matched pair.
> RF Parts has them on special for $1300 a pair from the same lot.
> Is there any major difference from a matched pair than from the same
> lot?
> RF said they sell tons of them all the time.
> Any help would be appreciated.
>
After a careful research of 3CX800AH tubes, I have deceided to
purchase two new matched tubes from Alpha Radio. I placed the order
with Molly this past week. Just too affraid of tubes not matched and
one doing most of the work which would shorten its life.
Thanks for all the input from this great group

Tomy kf7gc

239. Re: [Alpha87a] Support from Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-20 22:58:30 UTC
From: Robert Markwood
Topic: 237 Message: 239

Hi Paul

I'd like to help you out on this but I am in the Middle East at the moment. I have an Alpha 87A but I cannot remember if the tubes are pulse rated or not.

I do have a Commander HL-2500E which uses three (3) 3CPX800A7 tubes and does real well with them. They were optional equipment from Command Technologies and were recommended by Pat Stein who was the company owner at the time. The company is now owned by Palstar, another first class operation.

I was able to get the HL-2500E, which cannot be sold in the states (output is higher than allowed), because I was on active duty at the time with the Marine Corps and was out of country. I was able to re-enter the sates with it because it was then considered to be used equipment.

The Commander will output 3600 watts with an exciter input of 60 watts. At half that input, I am at US legal limit and the Commander essentially naps while working.

I am inclined to think that I replaced the two tubes in the Alpha, which were tired, with pulse rated tubes after talking with Pat Stein. At the time, Alpha was going through some changes and answers were not quickly available from them. When I return home later this year, I will let you know.

Now the heresy.....I still think amps using 3-500zg tubes are more bang for the buck and enjoy the advantage if instant warm-up.

OK ladies and gentlemen....flail away.

Bob

--- On Sat, 9/20/08, Paul Young <paul@...> wrote:
From: Paul Young <paul@...>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Support from Alpha
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Saturday, September 20, 2008, 4:18 PM

Hi all,

Last week I tried to sort the the noise from my internal fan with no

luck... I decided that I will have to buy a new one direct from Alpha

but as their site did not give a price for postage I sent them a email

asking about this. Well I sent the email and in the time it took me to

make a cup of tea I got a reply from Molly with all the details I

needed and placed the order. Order placed..... ...

Now thats what I call customer support :-) Molly has always been quick

with responding to questions both tech or other. Thanks Molly

Its a pitty all ham suppliers are not the same.

I am still waiting to hear from anyone using the 3CPX800A7's in their

87a?

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc. com

240. 3CPX800A7 question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 00:03:36 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 240 Message: 240

Hi Everyone,
I'm new to the group. In the '90s I had an Alpha 87A, which I sold. I was just now able to replace it with a nice mint unit, low hours, and it has the Alphamax upgrade.

I'm wondering if anyone has had experience with the heavier duty 3CPX800A7 tubes? I have a pair of Amp LK800C TNY amps which also use the 3CX800A7s, and the one came with a brand new set of 3CPX800A7s, they seem to be easier to drive than the regular version of the tube.

Any thoughts or comments for using them in the 87A?

Also, are there any other mods or upgrades to the amp I should consider that might be out there?

73 Darrell AB2E

_____
See how Windows connects the people, information, and fun that are part of your life.
http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/msnnkwxp1020093175mrt/direct/01/

241. Re: 3CPX800A7 question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 01:54:53 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 240 Message: 241

Darrell

There is controversy over the use of the pulse "P" tubes. Some have used them successfully. However, Anthony at AlphaPower strongly suggests they not be used. Call him and decide for yourself.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, AB2E Darrell <ab2e@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hi Everyone,
> I'm new to the group. In the '90s I had an Alpha 87A, which I sold. I was just now able to replace it with a nice mint unit, low hours, and it has the Alphamax upgrade.
>
> I'm wondering if anyone has had experience with the heavier duty 3CPX800A7 tubes? I have a pair of Amp LK800C TNY amps which also use the 3CX800A7s, and the one came with a brand new set of 3CPX800A7s, they seem to be easier to drive than the regular version of the tube.
>
> Any thoughts or comments for using them in the 87A?
>
> Also, are there any other mods or upgrades to the amp I should consider that might be out there?
>
> 73 Darrell AB2E
>
> _____
> See how Windows connects the people, information, and fun that are part of your life.
> http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/msnnkwxp1020093175mrt/direct/01/
>

242. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 3CPX800A7 question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 02:24:44 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 240 Message: 242

FB Jim, thanks for the info. I'll give him a call.
73 Darrell

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.comFrom: 57JNDenneny@...: Tue, 23 Sep 2008 01:54:53 +0000Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 3CPX800A7 question

DarrellThere is controversy over the use of the pulse "P" tubes. Some haveused them successfully. However, Anthony at AlphaPower stronglysuggests they not be used. Call him and decide for yourself.JimK7EG--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, AB2E Darrell <ab2e@...> wrote:>> > Hi Everyone,> I'm new to the group. In the '90s I had an Alpha 87A, which Isold. I was just now able to replace it with a nice mint unit, lowhours, and it has the Alphamax upgrade.> > I'm wondering if anyone has had experience with the heavier duty3CPX800A7 tubes? I have a pair of Amp LK800C TNY amps which also usethe 3CX800A7s, and the one came with a brand new set of 3CPX800A7s,they seem to be easier to drive than the regular version of the tube.> > Any thoughts or comments for using them in the 87A?> > Also, are there any other mods or upgrades to the amp I shouldconsider that might be out there?> > 73 Darrell AB2E> > _____> See how Windows connects the people, information, and fun that arepart of your life.> http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/msnnkwxp1020093175mrt/direct/01/>

_____
Get more out of the Web. Learn 10 hidden secrets of Windows Live.
http://windowslive.com/connect/post/jamiethomson.spaces.live.com-Blog-cns!550F681DAD532637!5295.entry?ocid=TXT_TAGLM_WL_domore_092008

243. price for a used 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 13:24:09 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 243 Message: 243

Hi all, I'm new here, don't own an 87A just yet, but a local ham wants to sell me his 87A that was purchased new by him in 1992 it does not have any of the upgrades installed, AlphaMax,AlphaRemote.
He still has all the original manual, and boxes. I saw this Amp in action a week ago, and it easily puts out the max power. What would be a fair purchase price for this AMP?

73, Clint WS1V

244. Re: [Alpha87a] price for a used 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 13:28:27 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 243 Message: 244

Depending on age around $4K - 4.5K

----- Original Message -----
From: clintws1v
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 6:24 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] price for a used 87A

Hi all, I'm new here, don't own an 87A just yet, but a local ham wants to sell me his 87A that was purchased new by him in 1992 it does not have any of the upgrades installed, AlphaMax,AlphaRemote.
He still has all the original manual, and boxes. I saw this Amp in action a week ago, and it easily puts out the max power. What would be a fair purchase price for this AMP?

73, Clint WS1V

245. Re: [Alpha87a] price for a used 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-23 14:06:24 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 243 Message: 245

I recently (March 2008) purchased one from a local dealer for $5K, including local sales tax (so ~$4650 actual price). It is a 1996 unit is excellent condition with Alphamax installed.

Philip

clintws1v wrote:
> Hi all, I'm new here, don't own an 87A just yet, but a local ham wants
> to sell me his 87A that was purchased new by him in 1992 it does not
> have any of the upgrades installed, AlphaMax,AlphaRemote.
> He still has all the original manual, and boxes. I saw this Amp in
> action a week ago, and it easily puts out the max power. What would be
> a fair purchase price for this AMP?
>
> 73, Clint WS1V
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

246. RE: [Alpha87a] price for a used 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-24 05:23:23 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 243 Message: 246

Hi Philip,
I just purchased one mint from a local ham for $4500. It has Alphamax, and low hours on the tubes. It was built in 1993. He was going to ask $5000 if it wound up on eBay, but I was in his local club, so got a better price and no shipping.
A quick search of sold listings on eBay shows one Sept 12 for $5200. I would say you see them go for up to around $5500.
Yes, it is a superb amp, especially for contesting with its instant band changes! This is the 2nd one I've owned.
73 Darrell AB2E
(new to the list)

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.comFrom: leolists@...: Tue, 23 Sep 2008 14:06:24 +0000Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] price for a used 87A

I recently (March 2008) purchased one from a local dealer for $5K, including local sales tax (so ~$4650 actual price). It is a 1996 unit is excellent condition with Alphamax installed.Philipclintws1v wrote:> Hi all, I'm new here, don't own an 87A just yet, but a local ham wants > to sell me his 87A that was purchased new by him in 1992 it does not > have any of the upgrades installed, AlphaMax,AlphaRemote.> He still has all the original manual, and boxes. I saw this Amp in > action a week ago, and it easily puts out the max power. What would be > a fair purchase price for this AMP?> > 73, Clint WS1V> > > ----------> > Yahoo! Groups Links> > >

_____
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http://clk.atdmt.com/MRT/go/msnnkwxp1020093185mrt/direct/01/

247. Rack handles ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-24 22:43:33 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 247 Message: 247

Hi all,
has anyone fitted rack handles to their 87A ??
photos is you have please.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

248. Re: [Alpha87a] Rack handles ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-25 13:29:34 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 247 Message: 248

Oooo...No _that_ would be nice.

Philip

Paul Young wrote:
> Hi all,
> has anyone fitted rack handles to their 87A ??
> photos is you have please.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

249. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-09-29 03:37:35 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 228 Message: 249

Nice sounding Alpha. I like that the amp is sitting at Alpha for someone to purchase the amp. To all on this group. If anyone lives in the San Francisco bay area/Silicon Valley or Monterey bay area and is selling their Alpha 87A, please let me know. I have been looking for one for a while now. I want to look at the amp in person, use the amp and look at the amp, preferably after a checkup at Alpha. I know that this is a lot to ask, but we are talking about a $5,000 or more amp.

Hope to find one soon.

73

Robert

----- Original Message ----
From: ve6sh <ve6sh@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 11:18:35 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Sale

I am selling my Alpha 87A as I have ordered an Alpha 9500.

s/n is 91350162 purchased by me in December 2007 with all upgrades. The amplifier was returned to Alpha in March 2008 for the following work:

1. Added RBIAS mod.
2. Replaced 1Meg resistors on plate choke.
3. Replaced Diodes in input wattmeter.
4. Aligned wattmeters.
5. Aligned bandswitch.
6. Tested amp on all bands and tested RX.
7. Re-routed blower wires.
8. Replaced various hardware that was wrong.

The amplifier has been used very sparingly since March. Copies of the RA and invoice for the work are available. Alpha rated the tubes as "good". The front is in very good shape. There are a few lite scratches on the cabinet (I have a bottle of Alpha touch up paint which I will include).

I have new Alpha shipping boxes and a new copy of the manual. As I am in VE6 this might appeal to Canadians as shipping should be reduced and there will be no GST charged (Shipping the unit from Alpha cost $US186 plus a brokerage fee).

$US4900. Please contact me off list. ve6sh@...

I also have a NOS Alpha DAS with original box and manual and a new Ratpak 6 pack antenna switch that can be worked into the sale (The DAS cost $425-it was new never used- and the antenna switch $236)

73

Tim VE6SH

250. DAS and SO2R

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-08 02:44:54 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 228 Message: 250

Hi,
Wonder if any of you are using the DAS as part of an SO2R configuration? Just received a NIB DAS today.
I have a pair of NIB Array Sol DBS1 band decoders arriving shortly. Just looking at it initially, it looks like using DAS in 1 of 9 mode, it would function the same as a band decoder, except from the 87A. Would I be better off using 1 DBS1 on radio 1, for instance, then the 87A w/DAS to controll the antennas for radio 2?
At the moment I don't have enough antennas to take advantage of the 1 of 36 mode on the DAS.

Station 1 - FT1000D, Amp Supply LK800TNY
Station 2 - IC756 Pro III, Alpha 87A

I definitely like the T/R lockout feature of the DAS, so would like to keep that in the mix.

Would like to hear your experiences with any similar type of setup.

73 Darrell AB2E

_____
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http://windowslive.com/connect/post/jamiethomson.spaces.live.com-Blog-cns!550F681DAD532637!5295.entry?ocid=TXT_TAGLM_WL_domore_092008

251. Re: [Alpha87a] DAS and SO2R

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-08 04:00:55 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 228 Message: 251

Darrell - No SO2R here. K3/Alpha87A/DAS with two antennas and Dummy Load. DAS runs SteppIR 3L yagi 40M through 10M and switches ti BiggIR vertical for 80M. Very simple setup. I use WX0R six pack antenna switch with DAS.

73

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: AB2E Darrell
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 7:44 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] DAS and SO2R

Hi,
Wonder if any of you are using the DAS as part of an SO2R configuration? Just received a NIB DAS today.
I have a pair of NIB Array Sol DBS1 band decoders arriving shortly. Just looking at it initially, it looks like using DAS in 1 of 9 mode, it would function the same as a band decoder, except from the 87A. Would I be better off using 1 DBS1 on radio 1, for instance, then the 87A w/DAS to controll the antennas for radio 2?
At the moment I don't have enough antennas to take advantage of the 1 of 36 mode on the DAS.

Station 1 - FT1000D, Amp Supply LK800TNY
Station 2 - IC756 Pro III, Alpha 87A

I definitely like the T/R lockout feature of the DAS, so would like to keep that in the mix.

Would like to hear your experiences with any similar type of setup.

73 Darrell AB2E

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252. RS232 to USB cable

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-13 16:22:47 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 252 Message: 252

What type of cable are you using to interface your Amp to a PC?
I'm thinking of going with a RS232 to USB cable...can anyone here make
a reccomendation for a particular brand that works well?

73,
Clint

253. Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-13 16:25:54 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 253 Message: 253

I have an older 87A probably close to 1st production run, has date inside 10-31-1991. The guy I got this from just used it, never modified or did any upgrades. I'm going to install Alphamax/Remote, but are there any other upgrades/modifications I should consider for this AMP?

73
Clint

254. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-13 16:32:20 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 253 Message: 254

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> I have an older 87A probably close to 1st production run, has date
> inside 10-31-1991. The guy I got this from just used it, never
> modified or did any upgrades. I'm going to install Alphamax/Remote,
> but are there any other upgrades/modifications I should consider for
> this AMP?
>
> 73
> Clint
>
Clint, I have a 1991 87A myself and just got it. I sent it to Alpha Radio and yes they did a lot of mods and repairs. They did not charge me for the inspection due to the costs of mods ect. It had Alpha Max and Remote. I installed an external fan. I also ordered new tubes as mine were fair. Hope this helps!

Tomy kf7gc

255. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-13 16:39:32 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 253 Message: 255

Clint - Probably not. My 87A is about the same vintage. Alpha told me AlphaMax was the only update available.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> I have an older 87A probably close to 1st production run, has date
> inside 10-31-1991. The guy I got this from just used it, never
> modified or did any upgrades. I'm going to install Alphamax/Remote,
> but are there any other upgrades/modifications I should consider for
> this AMP?
>
> 73
> Clint
>

256. Re: RS232 to USB cable

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-14 01:58:59 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 252 Message: 256

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> What type of cable are you using to interface your Amp to a PC?
> I'm thinking of going with a RS232 to USB cable...can anyone here make
> a reccomendation for a particular brand that works well?
>
> 73,
> Clint
>
I got mine from Cablestogo. It is a USB to Serial DB25 Adapter. I think
it was about $37.00 plus shipping. Do a search on Googlel

Tomy kf7gc

257. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-14 13:47:12 UTC
From: Kenneth Waites
Topic: 253 Message: 257

An Alpha that old should have the electroletic capacitors in the PS checked.

Ken K5WK

258. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-14 14:27:51 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 253 Message: 258

Thanks for your replies, I guess there are some ageing parts in this amp that may need to be checked out. Inside this Amp looks like new..so at least it wasn't abused. I'll give Alpha a call or e-mail them to see what they would reccomend, I would just hate to have to ship this heavy Amp, but I guess it's done often by others since reading the mail here.

73,
Clint

259. Re:Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-14 16:03:26 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 253 Message: 259

Clint:

You are bertter off asking this question of the Alpha people directly so you get the right information. The correct manufacture date can be determined from the Serial number. The first 2 digits are the year, the next 2 are the week of the year, and the last 4 digits are the Production Run Number. A S/N of 91230102 was manufactured on the 23rd week of 1991 and has a prod run number of 102. I have an older one which I did upgrades on and Alpha Max was one of the, but there was another that I don't remember the details on. Ask them.

John Owens - N7TK

260. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-14 18:32:02 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 253 Message: 260

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> Thanks for your replies, I guess there are some ageing parts in this
> amp that may need to be checked out. Inside this Amp looks like
> new..so at least it wasn't abused. I'll give Alpha a call or e-mail
> them to see what they would reccomend, I would just hate to have to
> ship this heavy Amp, but I guess it's done often by others since
> reading the mail here.
>
> 73,
> Clint
>
Clint,
You know that you remove the transformer before you ship?? I'm sure
they would want to see it first. If you do not have the correct box you
can purchase one from Aplha. I think it is around $65.00 plus shipping.
Alpha Radio wants to send the amp back to you via truck. I did op for
UPS 2nd day air and it arrived just fine, at almost half the price.

Tomy kf7gc

261. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-15 14:00:51 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 253 Message: 261

Tomy wrote:
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>> Thanks for your replies, I guess there are some ageing parts in this
>> amp that may need to be checked out. Inside this Amp looks like
>> new..so at least it wasn't abused. I'll give Alpha a call or e-mail
>> them to see what they would reccomend, I would just hate to have to
>> ship this heavy Amp, but I guess it's done often by others since
>> reading the mail here.
>>
>> 73,
>> Clint
>>
> Clint,
> You know that you remove the transformer before you ship?? I'm sure
> they would want to see it first. If you do not have the correct box you
> can purchase one from Aplha. I think it is around $65.00 plus shipping.
> Alpha Radio wants to send the amp back to you via truck. I did op for
> UPS 2nd day air and it arrived just fine, at almost half the price.
>
> Tomy kf7gc

Tomy, Do you send the transformer also?

Philip

262. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-15 16:07:01 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 253 Message: 262

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Philip Leonard WVØT <leolists@...>
wrote:
>
> Tomy wrote:
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@> wrote:
> >> Thanks for your replies, I guess there are some ageing parts in
this
> >> amp that may need to be checked out. Inside this Amp looks like
> >> new..so at least it wasn't abused. I'll give Alpha a call or e-
mail
> >> them to see what they would reccomend, I would just hate to have
to
> >> ship this heavy Amp, but I guess it's done often by others since
> >> reading the mail here.
> >>
> >> 73,
> >> Clint
> >>
> > Clint,
> > You know that you remove the transformer before you ship?? I'm
sure
> > they would want to see it first. If you do not have the correct
box you
> > can purchase one from Aplha. I think it is around $65.00 plus
shipping.
> > Alpha Radio wants to send the amp back to you via truck. I did op
for
> > UPS 2nd day air and it arrived just fine, at almost half the
price.
> >
> > Tomy kf7gc
>
>
> Tomy, Do you send the transformer also?
>
> Philip
>No, you just send in the amp without the transformer.

Tomy kf7gc

263. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-15 16:14:46 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 253 Message: 263

Tomy wrote:
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Philip Leonard WV?T <leolists@...>
> wrote:
>> Tomy wrote:
>>> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@> wrote:
>>>> Thanks for your replies, I guess there are some ageing parts in
> this
>>>> amp that may need to be checked out. Inside this Amp looks like
>>>> new..so at least it wasn't abused. I'll give Alpha a call or e-
> mail
>>>> them to see what they would reccomend, I would just hate to have
> to
>>>> ship this heavy Amp, but I guess it's done often by others since
>>>> reading the mail here.
>>>>
>>>> 73,
>>>> Clint
>>>>
>>> Clint,
>>> You know that you remove the transformer before you ship?? I'm
> sure
>>> they would want to see it first. If you do not have the correct
> box you
>>> can purchase one from Aplha. I think it is around $65.00 plus
> shipping.
>>> Alpha Radio wants to send the amp back to you via truck. I did op
> for
>>> UPS 2nd day air and it arrived just fine, at almost half the
> price.
>>> Tomy kf7gc
>>
>> Tomy, Do you send the transformer also?
>>
>> Philip
>> No, you just send in the amp without the transformer.
>
> Tomy kf7gc

Cool. Thanks. Mine is a 1996 unit and I've been thinking of sending it in for their checkup service. Not sending the XFMR would make that much easier.

Philip

264. Re: Upgrades, maintenance on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-15 16:39:00 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 253 Message: 264

You ship it without the power transformer which makes it considerably lighter. It is the Alpha tech abd 2-way shipping costs that will be heavy.

John Owens - N7TK

265. Internal blower replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-15 20:35:30 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 265 Message: 265

Hi all,

For some time my internal blower was getting very loud so I orderd a replacement from Alpha. Today I decided to do the big job and fitted the new unit "wow what a job" but all now fine.

Well I looked at the old unit I took out and it was dated 2001 so ether the last owner has left the amp turned on all the time or these replacement units don't last too long. The unit I took out was not original as the amp is a lot older than 2001.

Has anyone else found this or could the unit fitted in 2001 have been a faulty unit? I have taken the 2001 unit apart and found the shaft that should be fixed to the back has movement in it.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

266. External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-16 01:53:09 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 266 Message: 266

Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that Alpha sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see the grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the interior, but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on the back of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.

Any info appreciated,
73,
Clint

267. Re: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-16 03:17:27 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 266 Message: 267

Hi Clint,
I have installed the external fan to mine, the hardest bit of
the job is getting all the screws out of the case !!! My amp did not
have the toggle switch and I did not bother fitting one. Mine just
comes on with the amp and stays on. If you are going to use any
of the 100% duty cycle data modes its a must.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: clintws1v
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:53 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A

Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that Alpha
sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see the
grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the interior,
but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on the back
of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.

Any info appreciated,
73,
Clint

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.173 / Virus Database: 270.8.0/1726 - Release Date: 15/10/2008 07:29

268. Re: External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-16 18:09:16 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 266 Message: 268

Clint

I agree with Paul. My 87A is 91 vintage. I also installed both Alpha Max and fan myself (no toggle switch). I operate a lot of RTTY including contesting. The external fan is a MUST for me. My amp went back to Alpha recently to fix a failed plate choke. Alpha said original tubes are in excellent shape and I want to preserve their condition. I also keep power down to 900W in RTTY as an extra precaution.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Clint,
> I have installed the external fan to mine, the hardest
bit of
> the job is getting all the screws out of the case !!! My amp did not
> have the toggle switch and I did not bother fitting one. Mine just
> comes on with the amp and stays on. If you are going to use any
> of the 100% duty cycle data modes its a must.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: clintws1v
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:53 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A
>
>
> Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that Alpha
> sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see the
> grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the
interior,
> but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on the
back
> of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.
>
> Any info appreciated,
> 73,
> Clint
>
>

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>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.173 / Virus Database: 270.8.0/1726 - Release Date:
15/10/2008 07:29
>

269. Re: External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-16 20:42:46 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 266 Message: 269

Were these external fans the Alpha kit, or were they purchased from
the Newark site? I would think Alpha would provide the switch?

73 - Clint

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
>
> Clint
>
> I agree with Paul. My 87A is 91 vintage. I also installed both
Alpha
> Max and fan myself (no toggle switch). I operate a lot of RTTY
> including contesting. The external fan is a MUST for me. My amp
went
> back to Alpha recently to fix a failed plate choke. Alpha said
> original tubes are in excellent shape and I want to preserve their
> condition. I also keep power down to 900W in RTTY as an extra
precaution.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Clint,
> > I have installed the external fan to mine, the hardest
> bit of
> > the job is getting all the screws out of the case !!! My amp did
not
> > have the toggle switch and I did not bother fitting one. Mine just
> > comes on with the amp and stays on. If you are going to use any
> > of the 100% duty cycle data modes its a must.
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: clintws1v
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:53 AM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A

> >
> >
> > Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that
Alpha
> > sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see
the
> > grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the
> interior,
> > but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on
the
> back
> > of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.
> >
> > Any info appreciated,
> > 73,
> > Clint
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> ---

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> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> > Version: 8.0.173 / Virus Database: 270.8.0/1726 - Release Date:
> 15/10/2008 07:29
> >
>

270. Re: External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-16 21:02:57 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 266 Message: 270

Clint

I bought ext fan directly from Alpha. They did not include a switch. I presume switch was an innovation by some owners. I have no problem with fan noise so it runs continuously. With the increased volumetric air flow, I open case about every six months and vacuum out any residual dust in tube fins. There is not much accumulation.

I was able to run fan leads through grommet despite spade lug on each wire. Fan is 220VAC so you must be sure you are hooked across the 220VAC taps on the terminal block. That is all there is to it.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> Were these external fans the Alpha kit, or were they purchased from
> the Newark site? I would think Alpha would provide the switch?
>
> 73 - Clint
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
> <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > Clint
> >
> > I agree with Paul. My 87A is 91 vintage. I also installed both
> Alpha
> > Max and fan myself (no toggle switch). I operate a lot of RTTY
> > including contesting. The external fan is a MUST for me. My amp
> went
> > back to Alpha recently to fix a failed plate choke. Alpha said
> > original tubes are in excellent shape and I want to preserve their
> > condition. I also keep power down to 900W in RTTY as an extra
> precaution.
> >
> > Jim
> > K7EG
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hi Clint,

> > > I have installed the external fan to mine, the hardest
> > bit of
> > > the job is getting all the screws out of the case !!! My amp did
> not
> > > have the toggle switch and I did not bother fitting one. Mine just
> > > comes on with the amp and stays on. If you are going to use any
> > > of the 100% duty cycle data modes its a must.
> > >
> > > Paul G0HWC
> > > http://www.g0hwc.com
> > >
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: clintws1v
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > > Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:53 AM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A
> > >
> > >
> > > Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that
> Alpha
> > > sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see
> the
> > > grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the
> > interior,
> > > but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on
> the
> > back
> > > of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.
> > >
> > > Any info appreciated,
> > > 73,
> > > Clint
> > >
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> > >
> > >
> > > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > > Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> > > Version: 8.0.173 / Virus Database: 270.8.0/1726 - Release Date:
> > 15/10/2008 07:29
> > >

> >
>

271. Re: External fan kit...install on older 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-17 04:23:58 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 266 Message: 271

Hi Paul,
Yes there are alot of screws to remove to open up the 87A case, for
some silly reason I put them all back in even thou I still need to
reinstall the transformer, and now do the Alphamax upgrade...:(

Thanks for information on the Ext fan, I'm going to install one,
probably rig up a switch similar to what I've seen.

73, Clint

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Clint,
> I have installed the external fan to mine, the hardest
bit of
> the job is getting all the screws out of the case !!! My amp did not
> have the toggle switch and I did not bother fitting one. Mine just
> comes on with the amp and stays on. If you are going to use any
> of the 100% duty cycle data modes its a must.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: clintws1v
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:53 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] External fan kit...install on older 87A
>
>
> Has anyone here on the list installed the External Fan kit that Alpha
> sells? If so is it a relatively straing foreward install? I see the
> grommet on the back of my amp that the wire goes thru to the
interior,
> but I noticed that there is a small toggle switch installed on the
back
> of the amp also, I assume this controls the fan on/off function.
>
> Any info appreciated,
> 73,
> Clint
>
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>

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>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.173 / Virus Database: 270.8.0/1726 - Release Date:
15/10/2008 07:29
>

272. Re: RS232 to USB cable

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-23 14:50:02 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 252 Message: 272

> I got mine from Cablestogo. It is a USB to Serial DB25 Adapter. I think it was about $37.00 plus shipping. Do a search on Google
>
> Tomy kf7gc
>

I made the same purchase, however, you might have to remove the screws that attach the cable since the connector to the 87a... seems they are not exactly 'plug & play'.

Your results may vary...

Ken-W9KB

273. New Member and 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-24 18:43:45 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 273 Message: 273

I just joined the group and bought my first alpha. A Alpha 87a - waiting for it to come in the
mail. I look forward to seeing what it will do key down. It was manufactured in 1999 and is supposed to be in mint shape. They are pulling the xfer and tubes for shipping. I can't wait
to fire it up.

73,
Darin
WG5J

274. Re: [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-26 23:36:25 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 273 Message: 274

Welcome to the group Darin

if you want to know about what your new toy will do, check
out this link: http://hamradiomarket.com/Articles/Alpha87A.htm

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Darin Divinia
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 6:43 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner

I just joined the group and bought my first alpha. A Alpha 87a - waiting for it to come in the
mail. I look forward to seeing what it will do key down. It was manufactured in 1999 and is supposed to be in mint shape. They are pulling the xfer and tubes for shipping. I can't wait
to fire it up.

73,
Darin
WG5J

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.3/1748 - Release Date: 26/10/2008 19:53

275. Re: [?? Probable Spam] [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-26 23:38:06 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 275 Message: 275

Comgratulations. I am sure you will enjoy it. I sure do.

Jim
K7EG

----- Original Message -----
From: Darin Divinia
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 11:43 AM
Subject: [?? Probable Spam] [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner

I just joined the group and bought my first alpha. A Alpha 87a - waiting for it to come in the
mail. I look forward to seeing what it will do key down. It was manufactured in 1999 and is supposed to be in mint shape. They are pulling the xfer and tubes for shipping. I can't wait
to fire it up.

73,
Darin
WG5J

276. Re: [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-27 00:41:56 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 273 Message: 276

You will love it! I have 2 of them.
Tom
K4XG

In a message dated 10/26/2008 6:20:07 P.M. Central Daylight Time,
wg5j@... writes:

I just joined the group and bought my first alpha. A Alpha 87a - waiting
for it to come in the
mail. I look forward to seeing what it will do key down. It was
manufactured in 1999 and is
supposed to be in mint shape. They are pulling the xfer and tubes for
shipping. I can't wait
to fire it up.

73,
Darin
WG5J

Yahoo! Groups Links

**********Play online games for FREE at Games.com! All of your favorites,
no registration required and great graphics – check it out!
(http://pr.atwola.com/promoclk/100000075x1211202682x1200689022/aol?redir=
http://www.games.com?ncid=emlcntusgame00000001)

277. Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-27 13:15:12 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 277 Message: 277

Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?

vk5cp

278. Re: New Member and 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-27 13:59:58 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 273 Message: 278

Thanks - that is a good article.

I am sure I will have plenty of questions.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Welcome to the group Darin
>
> if you want to know about what your new toy will do, check
> out this link: http://hamradiomarket.com/Articles/Alpha87A.htm
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Darin Divinia
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, October 24, 2008 6:43 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] New Member and 87A Owner
>
>
> I just joined the group and bought my first alpha. A Alpha 87a - waiting for it to come
in the
> mail. I look forward to seeing what it will do key down. It was manufactured in 1999
and is
> supposed to be in mint shape. They are pulling the xfer and tubes for shipping. I can't
wait
> to fire it up.
>
> 73,
> Darin
> WG5J
>
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> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
> Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.3/1748 - Release Date: 26/10/2008 19:53
>

279. Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-27 14:12:39 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 277 Message: 279

> Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
> for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?
>
> vk5cp
>

I would try to diable then re-enable the com port you have selected for the serial interface. I run Vista and have experience this problem a few times. It's probably not the Alpha, most always your computer that doesnt't want to play with others well...

Ken-W9KB

280. Re: [Alpha87a] Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-29 06:40:06 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 277 Message: 280

When you sort out your problem, its worth looking at the software
in the group files section. It is far better than the Alpha supplied
software.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Christopher Platt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2008 1:15 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Apha remote software not responding anymore

Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?

vk5cp

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.4/1751 - Release Date: 27/10/2008 22:44

281. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore, power settings to check.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-10-29 16:17:25 UTC
From: Dudley Hurry
Topic: 277 Message: 281

Hi Guys,

There is a feature in Windows where the USB devices can be shut down by the OS when not in use (it will shut it down while in use too!) so you will need to uncheck the Power Saving setting in the Power Management tab of Windows Device Manager => Universal Serial Bus controllers => USB Root Hub . Also in Vista, it is advisable to use the High Performance tab in the Power Options in Control Panel .

This should help to keep devices from dropping out.

73,
Dudley

WA5QPZ

W9KB - Ken Bills wrote:
>
> > Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
> > for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?
> >
> > vk5cp
> >
>
> I would try to diable then re-enable the com port you have selected for
> the serial interface. I run Vista and have experience this problem a
> few times. It's probably not the Alpha, most always your computer that
> doesnt't want to play with others well...
>
> Ken-W9KB
>
>

282. Fault 24 Hard Fault "twice in a row"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-01 14:12:26 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 282 Message: 282

Hi all,

today I have had 2 fault 24's "system voltage fault" one after another.
Any pointers what would cause this ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

283. AlphaRemote power out wrong

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-01 15:48:28 UTC
From: wa5zup
Topic: 283 Message: 283

I just got around to hooking up my 87A to the computer.

With the amp into a dummy load, CW, drive set to 1500W out.

Two watt meters in line (LP-100A and a Palstar), both show 1500W out and no reflected power.

On the Amp 1500W LED, 1 LED Grid current, 1 LED past 1 amp Plate current.

On the AlphaRemote software:

IG 35ma

IP 1amp

Pr 60W

Po 2000

So Power out and Power reflected is way off on the software (RS-232 connection) it appears.

Any ideas what is wrong?

John wa5zup

284. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote power out wrong

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-01 17:19:41 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 283 Message: 284

Have you tried the other software for the 87a ?
you will find it in the files section of the group

its Excelent
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: wa5zup
To: Alpha87a
Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2008 3:48 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote power out wrong

I just got around to hooking up my 87A to the computer.

With the amp into a dummy load, CW, drive set to 1500W out.

Two watt meters in line (LP-100A and a Palstar), both show 1500W out and no reflected power.

On the Amp 1500W LED, 1 LED Grid current, 1 LED past 1 amp Plate current.

On the AlphaRemote software:

IG 35ma

IP 1amp

Pr 60W

Po 2000

So Power out and Power reflected is way off on the software (RS-232 connection) it appears.

Any ideas what is wrong?

John wa5zup

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.5/1759 - Release Date: 31/10/2008 16:10

285. Re: Fault 24 Hard Fault "twice in a row"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-02 14:49:56 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 282 Message: 285

Hello Paul

Check the line volatage and the tap setting of the transformer

Walter HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> today I have had 2 fault 24's "system voltage fault" one after
another.
> Any pointers what would cause this ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

286. fault 5 volt

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-02 16:49:06 UTC
From: is0vsg
Topic: 286 Message: 286

Hello to all
Ask for help solve a problem. Have an amplifier Alpha 87a
After turning the amplifier was' presented an alarm 5v, and the amplifier was' off.
I checked everything and apparently in 'all ok, but not the amplifier on, what can I do.
I remember living in an island and then send it out for repairs there is no such talk must solve everything myself.
Tnx 73
Gianni

is0vsg@...

287. Re: [Alpha87a] fault 5 volt

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-02 17:43:32 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 286 Message: 287

Hi Gianni

if the amp will not turn on now, can you still talk to the amp from the computer ?
was the error code 2 or 3 ?
have you been able to read all fault codes via the 232 port ?
If the amp will not turn on "safe mode" you should still be able to talk via 232
and at some point you will need to do a FULL reset. You can get these details from
Alpha.

Paul G0HWC

----- Original Message -----
From: is0vsg
To: Alpha87a@...m
Sent: Sunday, November 02, 2008 4:49 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] fault 5 volt

Hello to all
Ask for help solve a problem. Have an amplifier Alpha 87a
After turning the amplifier was' presented an alarm 5v, and the
amplifier was' off.
I checked everything and apparently in 'all ok, but not the amplifier
on, what can I do.
I remember living in an island and then send it out for repairs there
is no such talk must solve everything myself.
Tnx 73
Gianni

is0vsg@...

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.5/1761 - Release Date: 01/11/2008 19:56

288. Re: Fault 24 Hard Fault "twice in a row"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-02 19:11:38 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 282 Message: 288

Hi Paul,
The tech at Alpha share this info with me:

****
LOW VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - The 100uF 25V "Fault 24 mod" cap goes on the LVPS, which is the vertically mounted board below the horizontal HVPS. Solder the negative lead of the cap to pin 12 of U4. U4 is the only 14 pin IC on the LVPS. Solder the positive leg of the cap to pin 1 of U4. Tip the amp (after you've removed the transformer) towards you on its face very gently. Put a cloth or something down so you don't scratch panel. If you lean your head over the amp the LVPS will now be horizontal and facing you. In addition to being the only 14 pin IC, U4 is the closest IC to the HVPS. Bend the leads of the cap at a right angle down, while holding the cap horizontal with the negative lead towards you. Bend the negative lead just past the body of the cap. Stagger the positive lead length between the body and the bend an additional ¼" (two IC pins). Trim the lead length of the cap so that the cap sits horizontally on the IC. Sooner or later your ability to follow instructions and craftsmanship will be judged.
****

Maybe this will solve the FAULT 24 Problem on your 87A.
I have not done this update on my 87A, but am planning too.

73 - Clint - WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> today I have had 2 fault 24's "system voltage fault" one after another.
> Any pointers what would cause this ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

289. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 24 Hard Fault "twice in a row"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-02 20:09:27 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 282 Message: 289

Many thanks for the info Clint. My amp is now working again
so it could have just been a local problem with the 240v supply ?
Next time I have the amp open I will do this mod.

Do you know any other mods that need doing to the old ETO
amps ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: clintws1v
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, November 02, 2008 7:11 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 24 Hard Fault "twice in a row"

Hi Paul,
The tech at Alpha share this info with me:

****
LOW VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - The 100uF 25V "Fault 24 mod" cap goes on
the LVPS, which is the vertically mounted board below the horizontal
HVPS. Solder the negative lead of the cap to pin 12 of U4. U4 is the
only 14 pin IC on the LVPS. Solder the positive leg of the cap to pin
1 of U4. Tip the amp (after you've removed the transformer) towards
you on its face very gently. Put a cloth or something down so you
don't scratch panel. If you lean your head over the amp the LVPS will
now be horizontal and facing you. In addition to being the only 14
pin IC, U4 is the closest IC to the HVPS. Bend the leads of the cap
at a right angle down, while holding the cap horizontal with the
negative lead towards you. Bend the negative lead just past the body
of the cap. Stagger the positive lead length between the body and the
bend an additional ¼" (two IC pins). Trim the lead length of the cap
so that the cap sits horizontally on the IC. Sooner or later your
ability to follow instructions and craftsmanship will be judged.
****

Maybe this will solve the FAULT 24 Problem on your 87A.
I have not done this update on my 87A, but am planning too.

73 - Clint - WS1V

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> Hi all,
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another.
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> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.5/1761 - Release Date: 01/11/2008 19:56

290. Turning on Alphamax - only from serial?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-03 03:34:52 UTC
From: brianmo
Topic: 290 Message: 290

I am having difficulty turning on Alphamax from the front panel -
hitting load^ and Enter at the same time doesn't do anything for me.
However, turning it on from the serial port works just fine.

Has anyone else had this issue?

thanks,
Brian N9ADG

291. Re: Turning on Alphamax - only from serial?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-03 05:16:23 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 290 Message: 291

Hello Brian

Didn't know you had an 87A. No problem here engaging AlphaMax from
front panel or PC.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "brianmo" <brianmo@...> wrote:
>
> I am having difficulty turning on Alphamax from the front panel -
> hitting load^ and Enter at the same time doesn't do anything for me.
> However, turning it on from the serial port works just fine.
>
> Has anyone else had this issue?
>
> thanks,
> Brian N9ADG
>

292. Re: [Alpha87a] Turning on Alphamax - only from serial?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-04 08:41:12 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 290 Message: 292

Mine works fine :-)

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: brianmo
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2008 3:34 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Turning on Alphamax - only from serial?

I am having difficulty turning on Alphamax from the front panel -
hitting load^ and Enter at the same time doesn't do anything for me.
However, turning it on from the serial port works just fine.

Has anyone else had this issue?

thanks,
Brian N9ADG

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.8.5/1761 - Release Date: 01/11/2008 19:56

293. Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-07 18:39:45 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 293 Message: 293

Hi all,

After a few messages to Alpha they have send me details of all the updates they would do to any old Alpha 87a amps they get.

Hope it is of help
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----------Here is the full message----------

Hello Paul,

Here is the list of upgrades possible. If your amp was here we would add a 1N5383 150v Zener diode to raise the RCV PIN diode bias voltage to 900vdc (yours probably has 4 Zener diodes mounted above the HV bleeder resistors, and is about 750vdc).

73 - Glenn AE0Q

87A UPGRADE

Note: all directions, i.e. front, rear, left, right - assume positioning amp with front panel facing reader

HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - Verify that there are (5) (R40-R44) 220k 2-watt resistors on a level above the rest of the devices on the board. The ground end of this string should consist of zener diodes that are heat-shrink covered. If this construct is present, remove D15 from the board. It is redundant and can cause a fault 1 if it leaks. If this construct is not present this board needs further revision and D15 should not be removed. Another hint that R40-R44 are present is that R27 should already be missing. If R27 is not missing, don't remove D15.

Remove 4 H.V. diodes, D1 through D4, and replace with DRX-X136 (mono-block). See attached instructions. Double stick tape is already on the bottom of device. Clean board and mount diode where D1 and D3 were.

EPROM - Microprocessor board UPX-X108-G, U7 - Unplug the amp - processor is live when amp is plugged in, and the cover-microswitch is made, whether the amp is turned on or not turned on; even when the transformer is removed from the chassis.

Front Panel has 2 screws per side and 5 along the bottom front edge of chassis. 2 cables between the Switch Board and the Motor Driver

Board will have to be detached at one end or the other (note Pin 1 so you can put the connector back correctly). The 4-pin berg connector to Display board may also have to be removed depending on the cable routing. Now you should be clear to lay the front panel down towards you on its face. The processor board will be facing you on the right side of the inner front wall of the main chassis. Carefully remove U7 (bottom right quadrant of board, near square processor) and install 108-G (pin 1 left top). Ensure all pins slide into socket. Re-install cable connectors and front panel.

OUTPUT T/R MODULE - Remove the two screws on the front and left side edge of the perforated cover (rear-center) to give you access to the Output T/R board (the horizontal board under the cover). Blue 10meg resistor is on the Output T/R, reference designator R5. If it's already a ½ watt (probably black or physically bigger) (as opposed to ¼ watt, standard color code stripes) and you're not getting fault 1, you can leave it alone. (You can't successfully measure it to verify value in circuit. If it's open, parallel resistances will mask it.) The safety choke installation requires a hole in the Output T/R module sub chassis. The hole should be 5/32", 5/8" from top of front vertical wall of sub-chassis, and 1 and 3/8" in from left corner of sub-chassis. The washer and nut to attach the choke to the sub-chassis should be on the part already, "behind" the thread protector porcelain. The porcelain can be discarded. The safety choke is positioned inside the Output T/R module running north-south (thread end towards you, through the hole you just punched). The foam strip (XKX-X118) goes on top of the choke, between the choke and the output T/R cover. The lead on the opposite end from the threads of the device should have a Teflon sleeve and needs to be soldered to the RF output (heavy gauge wire from output T/R board to RF output connector). The spark gap arrestor runs from this same point (RF output) to chassis ground. Attach right angle solder lug HLX-X130 to Output Wattmeter board (Vertical on rear wall of Output T/R sub-chassis) with flat head screw HSS-3018. Mounting point is output connector top-right corner. Connector is threaded. This is the chassis ground end for the Spark gap arrestor. Solder one end of the arrestor to the lug you just attached to the Output Wattmeter board/RF output connector. Again, the other end should be soldered to the RF Output itself. Ensure that positioning of this device does not cause it to come into contact with the Output T/R subchassis' perforated cover. Ensure that the solder lug does not touch the Output toroid.

LOW VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - The 100uF 25V "Fault 24 mod" cap goes on the LVPS, which is the vertically mounted board below the horizontal HVPS. Solder the negative lead of the cap to pin 12 of U4. U4 is the only 14 pin IC on the LVPS. Solder the positive leg of the cap to pin 1 of U4. Tip the amp (after you've removed the transformer) towards you on its face very gently. Put a cloth or something down so you don't scratch panel. If you lean your head over the amp the LVPS will now be horizontal and facing you. In addition to being the only 14

pin IC, U4 is the closest IC to the HVPS. Bend the leads of the cap at a right angle down, while holding the cap horizontal with the negative lead towards you. Bend the negative lead just past the body of the cap. Stagger the positive lead length between the body and the bend an additional ¼" (two IC pins). Trim the lead length of the cap so that the cap sits horizontally on the IC. Sooner or later your ability to follow instructions and craftsmanship will be judged.

PARTS LIST

CEX-1077 100uF, 25 V cap (LVPS board)

DRX-X136 HV mono-block diode bridge (HVPS board)

RFM-D106A 10 megohm, ½ watt resistor (OUTPUT T/R board)

LCX-X105 Safety choke (OUTPUT - output t/r module)

CGX-8010-D Spark gap Arrestor (OUTPUT - output t/r module)

UPX-X108-G EPROM, last version before AlphaMax version 1.00AT (Microprocessor board)

294. Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-08 20:02:09 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 293 Message: 294

Hi Paul,
Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?

73, Clint WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> After a few messages to Alpha they have send me details of all the
> updates they would do to any old Alpha 87a amps they get.
>
> Hope it is of help
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
> ----------Here is the full message----------
>
>
> Hello Paul,
>
> Here is the list of upgrades possible. If your amp was here we would
> add a 1N5383 150v Zener diode to raise the RCV PIN diode bias voltage
> to 900vdc (yours probably has 4 Zener diodes mounted above the HV
> bleeder resistors, and is about 750vdc).
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> ---
> 87A UPGRADE
>
> Note: all directions, i.e. front, rear, left, right - assume
> positioning amp with front panel facing reader
>
>
>
>
> HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - Verify that there are (5) (R40-R44) 220k
> 2-watt resistors on a level above the rest of the devices on the
> board. The ground end of this string should consist of zener diodes
> that are heat-shrink covered. If this construct is present, remove
> D15 from the board. It is redundant and can cause a fault 1 if it
> leaks. If this construct is not present this board needs further

> revision and D15 should not be removed. Another hint that R40-R44 are
> present is that R27 should already be missing. If R27 is not missing,
> don't remove D15.
>
> Remove 4 H.V. diodes, D1 through D4, and replace with DRX-X136 (mono-
> block). See attached instructions. Double stick tape is already on
> the bottom of device. Clean board and mount diode where D1 and D3
> were.
>
>
>
>
>
> EPROM - Microprocessor board UPX-X108-G, U7 - Unplug the amp -
> processor is live when amp is plugged in, and the cover-microswitch
> is made, whether the amp is turned on or not turned on; even when the
> transformer is removed from the chassis.
>
>
> Front Panel has 2 screws per side and 5 along the bottom front edge
> of chassis. 2 cables between the Switch Board and the Motor Driver
> Board will have to be detached at one end or the other (note Pin 1 so
> you can put the connector back correctly). The 4-pin berg connector
> to Display board may also have to be removed depending on the cable
> routing. Now you should be clear to lay the front panel down towards
> you on its face. The processor board will be facing you on the right
> side of the inner front wall of the main chassis. Carefully remove U7
> (bottom right quadrant of board, near square processor) and install
> 108-G (pin 1 left top). Ensure all pins slide into socket. Re-install
> cable connectors and front panel.
>
>
>
>
> OUTPUT T/R MODULE - Remove the two screws on the front and left side
> edge of the perforated cover (rear-center) to give you access to the
> Output T/R board (the horizontal board under the cover). Blue 10meg
> resistor is on the Output T/R, reference designator R5. If it's
> already a ½ watt (probably black or physically bigger) (as opposed to
> ¼ watt, standard color code stripes) and you're not getting fault 1,
> you can leave it alone. (You can't successfully measure it to verify
> value in circuit. If it's open, parallel resistances will mask it.)
> The safety choke installation requires a hole in the Output T/R
> module sub chassis. The hole should be 5/32", 5/8" from top of front
> vertical wall of sub-chassis, and 1 and 3/8" in from left corner of
> sub-chassis. The washer and nut to attach the choke to the sub-
> chassis should be on the part already, "behind" the thread protector
> porcelain. The porcelain can be discarded. The safety choke is
> positioned inside the Output T/R module running north-south (thread
> end towards you, through the hole you just punched). The foam strip

> (XKX-X118) goes on top of the choke, between the choke and the output
> T/R cover. The lead on the opposite end from the threads of the
> device should have a Teflon sleeve and needs to be soldered to the RF
> output (heavy gauge wire from output T/R board to RF output
> connector). The spark gap arrestor runs from this same point (RF
> output) to chassis ground. Attach right angle solder lug HLX-X130 to
> Output Wattmeter board (Vertical on rear wall of Output T/R sub-
> chassis) with flat head screw HSS-3018. Mounting point is output
> connector top-right corner. Connector is threaded. This is the
> chassis ground end for the Spark gap arrestor. Solder one end of the
> arrestor to the lug you just attached to the Output Wattmeter
> board/RF output connector. Again, the other end should be soldered to
> the RF Output itself. Ensure that positioning of this device does not
> cause it to come into contact with the Output T/R subchassis'
> perforated cover. Ensure that the solder lug does not touch the
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>
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>
> LOW VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - The 100uF 25V "Fault 24 mod" cap goes on
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> bend an additional ¼" (two IC pins). Trim the lead length of the cap
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> PARTS LIST
>
>
> CEX-1077 100uF, 25 V cap (LVPS board)
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> DRX-X136 HV mono-block diode bridge (HVPS board)
>
> RFM-D106A 10 megohm, ½ watt resistor (OUTPUT T/R board)
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> CGX-8010-D Spark gap Arrestor (OUTPUT - output t/r module)
>

> UPX-X108-G EPROM, last version before AlphaMax version 1.00AT
> (Microprocessor board)
>

295. Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-08 20:29:20 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 293 Message: 295

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:

I had all the mods and updates done just recently.
The cost was about $850. Mine is a 1991 ETO. I also installed new
tubes when I got it back from Alpha. They did great job and the amp
is like new. 25 watts drive to get 1200 watts out.

Hope this helps!

Tomy kf7gc kf7gc@...

>
> Hi Paul,
> Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
> Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
> Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?
>
> 73, Clint WS1V
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi all,
> >
> > After a few messages to Alpha they have send me details of all
the
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> >
> > Hope it is of help
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> >
> > ----------Here is the full message----------------
> >
> >
> > Hello Paul,
> >
> > Here is the list of upgrades possible. If your amp was here we
would
> > add a 1N5383 150v Zener diode to raise the RCV PIN diode bias
voltage
> > to 900vdc (yours probably has 4 Zener diodes mounted above the HV
> > bleeder resistors, and is about 750vdc).
> >
> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> >
> > ----------

> > 87A UPGRADE
> >
> > Note: all directions, i.e. front, rear, left, right - assume
> > positioning amp with front panel facing reader
> >
> >
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> >
> > HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - Verify that there are (5) (R40-R44)
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> > D15 from the board. It is redundant and can cause a fault 1 if it
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> > revision and D15 should not be removed. Another hint that R40-R44
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> > present is that R27 should already be missing. If R27 is not
missing,
> > don't remove D15.
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> > Remove 4 H.V. diodes, D1 through D4, and replace with DRX-X136
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> > output (heavy gauge wire from output T/R board to RF output
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> >
> > UPX-X108-G EPROM, last version before AlphaMax version 1.00AT
> > (Microprocessor board)
> >
>

296. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-08 20:38:45 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 293 Message: 296

I guess all parts can be got from them, but did not ask.
and YES eprom upgrade is part of AlphaMax upgrade.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: clintws1v
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2008 8:02 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Hi Paul,
Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?

73, Clint WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> After a few messages to Alpha they have send me details of all the
> updates they would do to any old Alpha 87a amps they get.
>
> Hope it is of help
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
> ----------Here is the full message----------
>
>
> Hello Paul,
>
> Here is the list of upgrades possible. If your amp was here we would
> add a 1N5383 150v Zener diode to raise the RCV PIN diode bias voltage
> to 900vdc (yours probably has 4 Zener diodes mounted above the HV
> bleeder resistors, and is about 750vdc).
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> ----------
> 87A UPGRADE
>
> Note: all directions, i.e. front, rear, left, right - assume

> positioning amp with front panel facing reader
>
>
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>
> HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY - Verify that there are (5) (R40-R44) 220k
> 2-watt resistors on a level above the rest of the devices on the
> board. The ground end of this string should consist of zener diodes
> that are heat-shrink covered. If this construct is present, remove
> D15 from the board. It is redundant and can cause a fault 1 if it
> leaks. If this construct is not present this board needs further
> revision and D15 should not be removed. Another hint that R40-R44 are
> present is that R27 should already be missing. If R27 is not missing,
> don't remove D15.
>
> Remove 4 H.V. diodes, D1 through D4, and replace with DRX-X136 (mono-
> block). See attached instructions. Double stick tape is already on
> the bottom of device. Clean board and mount diode where D1 and D3
> were.
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> you on its face. The processor board will be facing you on the right
> side of the inner front wall of the main chassis. Carefully remove U7
> (bottom right quadrant of board, near square processor) and install
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> cable connectors and front panel.
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> Output T/R board (the horizontal board under the cover). Blue 10meg
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> already a ½ watt (probably black or physically bigger) (as opposed to

> ¼ watt, standard color code stripes) and you're not getting fault 1,
> you can leave it alone. (You can't successfully measure it to verify
> value in circuit. If it's open, parallel resistances will mask it.)
> The safety choke installation requires a hole in the Output T/R
> module sub chassis. The hole should be 5/32", 5/8" from top of front
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> pin IC, U4 is the closest IC to the HVPS. Bend the leads of the cap
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> CEX-1077 100uF, 25 V cap (LVPS board)
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> UPX-X108-G EPROM, last version before AlphaMax version 1.00AT
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No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.9.0/1775 - Release Date: 08/11/2008 09:56

297. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 12:43:31 UTC
From: wa5zup
Topic: 293 Message: 297

Good info

It would be nice to have this in the files section.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Paul Young
Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2008 1:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

I guess all parts can be got from them, but did not ask.

and YES eprom upgrade is part of AlphaMax upgrade.

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc. <http://www.g0hwc.com> com

----- Original Message -----

From: clintws1v <mailto:clintws1v@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com

Sent: Saturday, November 08, 2008 8:02 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Hi Paul,
Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?

73, Clint WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com, "Paul
Young" <paul@...> wrote:
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> Hi all,
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> After a few messages to Alpha they have send me details of all the
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> Hello Paul,
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> Note: all directions, i.e. front, rear, left, right - assume
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> UPX-X108-G EPROM, last version before AlphaMax version 1.00AT
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---

size=2 width="100%" align=center>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com
Version: 8.0.175 / Virus Database: 270.9.0/1775 - Release Date: 08/11/2008
09:56

298. Getting the PC to talk to 4510 Power Meter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 13:00:00 UTC
From: vk5cp
Topic: 298 Message: 298

Hi all,

I have a 87A and the 4510 Power Meter. I have installed the Alpha Soft Meter software but cant find any menu to configure the com port connection to the PC so I can read the meters.

Has anyone got this software going?

73 de Chris VK5CP

299. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 14:53:37 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 293 Message: 299

Hi Clint and the group,

To clarify the firmware question:

Some early 87a amps (datecode probably earlier than 1994) have firmware that is earlier than version 1.08G (like 1.06,1.08, or 1.08F), and those versions do not support some of the diagnostic functions that we use at Alpha or that can be done in the field for some troubleshooting.

AlphaMax firmware is version 1.00AT, and changing that is separate from any other repairing or upgrading that is done at Alpha. If an amp is at Alpha for repair and we notice that the firmware is not AlphaMax, we usually ask the owner if they want AlphaMax, and if they don't we put in a 1.08G PROM so that diagnostic functions can proceed. Very few 87a amps are left with versions lower than 1.08G at this point. As far as operating the amp on the air, the firmware versions lower than AlphaMax 1.00AT are all the same.

The parts listed in the upgrade document are available at Alpha.

On Sat, Nov 8, 2008 at 1:02 PM, clintws1v <clintws1v@...> wrote:
> Hi Paul,
> Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
> Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
> Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?

73 - Glenn AE0Q
--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

300. Re: [Alpha87a] Getting the PC to talk to 4510 Power Meter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 16:00:00 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 298 Message: 300

Hello Chris,

Look in the Softmeter directory for a file called AP45XX.INI, open it
with notepad or your text editor. It should have the instructions:

```
' Communications parameters
'Edit line below to set com port 1 through 8
COM=1
```

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 6:00 AM, vk5cp <vk5cp@...> wrote:
> Hi all,
>
> I have a 87A and the 4510 Power Meter. I have installed the Alpha Soft
> Meter software but cant find any menu to configure the com port
> connection to the PC so I can read the meters.
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> Has anyone got this software going?
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> 73 de Chris VK5CP

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"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

301. Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 17:21:04 UTC
From: Al Waller, K3TKJ
Topic: 293 Message: 301

Hello Alpha Brain Trust,

I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes" from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even though the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No change. I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No change. I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.

Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts. Below that power everything works as it used to.

Any ideas what to try next?

73, Al K3TKJ

302. Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 17:50:17 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 293 Message: 302

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Al Waller, K3TKJ" <k3tkj@...> wrote:
Al,

I have the same problem with mine. I just got it back from Alpha and had it updated. I will contact them soon and see what they say.

Please keep us informed if you find out anything and I'll do the same.

Tomy kf7gc

>
> Hello Alpha Brain Trust,
>
> I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
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> happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts.
> Below that power everything works as it used to.
>
> Any ideas what to try next?
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> 73, Al K3TKJ
>

303. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 18:03:28 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 293 Message: 303

Hello Al,

The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the appropriate level of output.

If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from Alpha if you need them.

If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output wattmeters.

Here are some tests.

1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with the amplifier.

2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

3) On the PC, type EXT ON.

4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@...> wrote:
>
> I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
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> 73, Al K3TKJ

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

304. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 18:30:24 UTC
From: Al Waller, K3TKJ
Topic: 293 Message: 304

Glenn AE0Q wrote:
>
> Hello Al,
>
> The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> appropriate level of output.
>
> .
>
> __,_.

Thanks for the reply Glenn. It does it on all bands.

Al
> ,___

305. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-10 23:03:08 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 293 Message: 305
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Glenn this is the result of your suggested test

FACTORY MODE = ON

RM30500

RM00000

RM70700

RM60600

GPIO = 0 .00 6 96

Al

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 1:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; k3tkj@...
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Hello Al,

The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the appropriate level of output.

If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from Alpha if you need them.

If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output wattmeters.

Here are some tests.

1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with the amplifier.

2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

3) On the PC, type EXT ON.

4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each

time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@... <mailto:k3tkj%40qsl.net> > wrote:
>
> I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
> from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even though
> the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No change.
> I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No change.
> I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.
>
> Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts.
> Below that power everything works as it used to.
>
> Any ideas what to try next?
>
> 73, Al K3TKJ

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... <mailto:ae0q%40arrl.net> --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

306. Re: Getting the PC to talk to 4510 Power Meter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 01:47:49 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 298 Message: 306

Thnaks Glenn, I will give it ago when I get home. 73 de Chris VK5CP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Chris,
>
> Look in the Softmeter directory for a file called AP45XX.INI, open
it
> with notepad or your text editor. It should have the instructions:
>
> ' Communications parameters
> 'Edit line below to set com port 1 through 8
> COM=1
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 6:00 AM, vk5cp <vk5cp@...> wrote:
> > Hi all,
> >
> > I have a 87A and the 4510 Power Meter. I have installed the Alpha
Soft
> > Meter software but cant find any menu to configure the com port
> > connection to the PC so I can read the meters.
> >
> > Has anyone got this software going?
> >
> > 73 de Chris VK5CP
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

307. Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 01:48:26 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 277 Message: 307

Problem solved (the cable came out at the rear!)

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Christopher Platt" <vk5jjj@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
> for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?
>
> vk5cp
>

308. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 03:13:38 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 293 Message: 308

Al,

The Input wattmeter (under the tubedeck) has a bad diode (or diodes). The input wattmeter usually reads within about 15w (+/-) of the output wattmeter with the amp in standby and 100w going thru it. I can tell you which diodes are the forward ones tomorrow from work, if you want to replace them yourself. Good job, you found the problem :-)

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 4:03 PM, Al Waller <k3tkj@...> wrote:
> Glenn this is the result of your suggested test
>
> FACTORY MODE = ON
>
> GPIO = 0 .00 6 96

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

309. Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 05:23:51 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 309 Message: 309

What are the differences between these amps?

D.

310. Re: Bring your old ETO 87a up to spec

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 16:15:38 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 293 Message: 310

Hi Glenn,
Thanks for clarifying this firmware & parts question.

73 - Clint - WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Clint and the group,
>
> To clarify the firmware question:
>
> Some early 87a amps (datecode probably earlier than 1994) have
> firmware that is earlier than version 1.08G (like 1.06,1.08, or
> 1.08F), and those versions do not support some of the diagnostic
> functions that we use at Alpha or that can be done in the field for
> some troubleshooting.
>
> AlphaMax firmware is version 1.00AT, and changing that is separate
> from any other repairing or upgrading that is done at Alpha. If an
> amp is at Alpha for repair and we notice that the firmware is not
> AlphaMax, we usually ask the owner if they want AlphaMax, and if they
> don't we put in a 1.08G PROM so that diagnostic functions can proceed.
> Very few 87a amps are left with versions lower than 1.08G at this
> point. As far as operating the amp on the air, the firmware versions
> lower than AlphaMax 1.00AT are all the same.
>
> The parts listed in the upgrade document are available at Alpha.
>
> On Sat, Nov 8, 2008 at 1:02 PM, clintws1v <clintws1v@...> wrote:
> > Hi Paul,
> > Thanks for sharing this information with us, I have 2 questions...
> > Did Alpha indicate to you if these part #s are available from them?
> > Also is the Eprom Upgrade equal to the AlphaMax upgrade?
>
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

311. Re:Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-11 16:16:32 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 293 Message: 311

All sorts of strange things can happen to cause these kind of failures. I used to get the HI SWR fault code failure periodically and eventally found it to be an intermittent failure in my low pass filter where it arced over at higher output power levels, and only on certain bands. I opened it up and sure enough there was evidence of arcing with a carbon path existing there for just the right conditions to arc. The microprocessor is very fast to react and shuts things down (thankfully).

I also got this failure periodically when operating SSB with my FT1000MP digital voice keyer. I discovered that when I keyed the voice recorder, there was peak energy right at the start of the recording that was taking the amp into the red zone very briefly. Having the Compression on made the problem worse. I just have to be careful when using DVK to make sure this does not cause a failure interrupt.

It helps to talk about these things on the reflector as all sorts of things can and do happen with these modern amplifiers.

John Owens - N7TK

312. Re:Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-13 12:38:30 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 293 Message: 312

I had a similar issue that turned out to be a loose PL259 on the relay box on the tower. The only indication of the problem was a very occasional SWR fault on the 87A... noticed the loose connector during routine maintenance and the fault has never occured since.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "John Owens" <jcowens1@...> wrote:
>
> All sorts of strange things can happen to cause these kind of failures. I used to get the HI SWR fault code failure periodically and eventally found it to be an intermittent failure in my low pass filter where it arced over at higher output power levels, and only on certain bands. I opened it up and sure enough there was evidence of arcing with a carbon path existing there for just the right conditions to arc. The microprocessor is very fast to react and shuts things down (thankfully).
>
> I also got this failure periodically when operating SSB with my FT1000MP digital voice keyer. I discovered that when I keyed the voice recorder, there was peak energy right at the start of the recording that was taking the amp into the red zone very briefly. Having the Compression on made the problem worse. I just have to be careful when using DVK to make sure this does not cause a failure interrupt.
>
> It helps to talk about these things on the reflector as all sorts of things can and do happen with these modern amplifiers.
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>

313. Re:Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-13 14:22:43 UTC
From: Kenneth Waites
Topic: 293 Message: 313

I have had this happen most recently from a PL259 that had loosened in a spot where there was no reason for it to move at all - at an antenna switch up the tower a ways . Think of 14 MHZ as being 14 million joggles per second.

Ken K5WK

314. Alpha 87A problem solved

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-18 02:03:08 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 293 Message: 314

This post is so the answer will be in the archives. I did exactly as Glenn suggested and the result was Input power was shown as 6 watts while the output was shown as 100 watts. Glen suggested that I had a bad diode on the input wattmeter board, D1/D4 are the forward diodes, and D2/D3 are the reflected diodes. They are 1N5711 diodes. This is the ABX-X184 board accessed by removing the access plate on the bottom of the amp directly under the PA tubes. I found diode D1 shorted. Replacing it resulted in the GPIO test being 97watts in and 96 watts out. The Fault 17 no longer occurs. Thanks Glenn for your help.

73, Al

The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the appropriate level of output.

If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from Alpha if you need them.

If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output wattmeters.

Here are some tests.

1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with the amplifier.

2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

3) On the PC, type EXT ON.

4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@...
<mailto:k3tkj%40qsl.net> > wrote:
>
> I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
> from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even though

> the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No change.
> I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No change.
> I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.
>
> Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts.
> Below that power everything works as it used to.
>
> Any ideas what to try next?
>
> 73, Al K3TKJ

315. Re: Alpha 87A problem solved

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-11-18 13:43:48 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 293 Message: 315

Al,
Thanks for sharing this info with the group, it will come in handy !!

73,
Clint
WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Al Waller" <k3tkj@...> wrote:
>
> This post is so the answer will be in the archives. I did exactly
as Glenn
> suggested and the result was Input power was shown as 6 watts
while the
> output was shown as 100 watts. Glen suggested that I had a bad
diode on the
> input wattmeter board, D1/D4 are the forward diodes, and D2/D3 are
the
> reflected diodes. They are 1N5711 diodes. This is the ABX-X184
board
> accessed by removing the access plate on the bottom of the amp
directly
> under the PA tubes. I found diode D1 shorted. Replacing it resulted
in the
> GPIO test being 97watts in and 96 watts out. The Fault 17 no longer
occurs.
> Thanks Glenn for your help.
>
>
>
> 73, Al
>
>
>
> The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> appropriate level of output.
>
> If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position
adjustment
> and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> Alpha if you need them.
>
> If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a
failed
> diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output

> wattmeters.
>
> Here are some tests.
>
> 1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with
> the amplifier.
>
> 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100
w
> from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).
>
> 3) On the PC, type EXT ON.
>
> 4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This
command
> reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power
each
> time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about
100w
> output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the
> wattmeter diodes are damaged.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@...
> <mailto:k3tkj%40qsl.net> > wrote:
> >
> > I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The
fault
> > code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts
about "spikes"
> > from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even
though
> > the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No
change.
> > I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No
change.
> > I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.
> >
> > Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> > happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800
watts.
> > Below that power everything works as it used to.
> >
> > Any ideas what to try next?
> >
> > 73, Al K3TKJ
>

316. New Fault 14 on 20m only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-06 20:24:09 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 316 Message: 316

I was working the TARA RTTY contest on 20m today and running about 500w with occasional 1000w for DX. My station is a IC-7800 and a DX Engineering 43' ground-mounted vertical and 4:1 balun with about sixty 72' radials. My SWR without an antenna tuner for 14.080 runs about 5.5 and I use a Palstar AT-AUTO without problems and the Alpha only sees an SWR of 1.02. When working a contest over a narrow freq range, I keep the tuner in Manual mode once I get an optimal SWR reading (< 1.05)

Today whenever I went over 500w I got a Fault 14 (oxxxo). When this happened the 7800 was still xmt'ing RTTY at around 20w and I noticed on my SWR meter that the SWR was transiently about 10 and within a fraction of a second, while still transmitting, it went back to SWR 1.02. Again, tuner was in maual mode.

The vertical and all connecotrs are new and tight. The vertical is near resonant on 40m and I can run full legal without the tuner on 40 without a problem. On 15m, 17m 30m and 80m, I can run full legal with the Tuner in place. So the problem is only on 20m. I suspect something is arcing in the tuner though I don't hear it. Could it be anything with my beloved Alpha 87a ??

73 and tnx for the bandwidth
Jerry
K1JOS

317. Re: [Alpha87a] New Fault 14 on 20m only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-06 23:32:13 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 316 Message: 317

Borrow a good quality dummy load like a Bird, from a friend. Their
600W models will take a kW+ for many minutes. Test the 87A into it,
using one known, good cable.
--Glenn K6NA

At 12:24 PM 12/6/2008, you wrote:

>The vertical and all connecotrs are new and tight. The vertical is
>near resonant on 40m and I can run full legal without the tuner on 40
>without a problem. On 15m, 17m 30m and 80m, I can run full legal
>with the Tuner in place. So the problem is only on 20m. I suspect
>something is arcing in the tuner though I don't hear it. Could it be
>anything with my beloved Alpha 87a ??
>
>73 and tnx for the bandwidth
>Jerry
>K1JOS

318. Re: New Fault 14 on 20m only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-07 16:40:07 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 316 Message: 318

Yes, I have no problem going into a high quality DL (DL2K) on the
same frequency up to 1500+W. So looks like its my Tuner that is
glitichy.

Thanks, I have another question but will post under separate topic.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann <k6na@...> wrote:
>
> Borrow a good quality dummy load like a Bird, from a friend. Their
> 600W models will take a kW+ for many minutes. Test the 87A into
it,
> using one known, good cable.
> --Glenn K6NA
>
> At 12:24 PM 12/6/2008, you wrote:
>
> >The vertical and all connecotrs are new and tight. The vertical is
> >near resonant on 40m and I can run full legal without the tuner on
40
> >without a problem. On 15m, 17m 30m and 80m, I can run full legal
> >with the Tuner in place. So the problem is only on 20m. I suspect
> >something is arcing in the tuner though I don't hear it. Could it
be
> >anything with my beloved Alpha 87a ??
> >
> >73 and tnx for the bandwidth
> >Jerry
> >K1JOS
>

319. Transformer Hum after While

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-07 16:45:51 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 319 Message: 319

When my Alpha 87a has been powered up and in use for a while I hear a distinct, not loud but quite noticeable, hum that was never there before over the transformer area. Before I open her up, any advice if indeed this is the case is it a cause a concern in the amp? Does it signify a soon to fail transformer?

73
Jerry
K1JOS

320. Transformer Hum after While

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-07 16:45:56 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 319 Message: 320

When my Alpha 87a has been powered up and in use for a while I hear a distinct, not loud but quite noticeable, hum that was never there before over the transformer area. Before I open her up, any advice if indeed this is the case is it a cause a concern in the amp? Does it signify a soon to fail transformer?

73
Jerry
K1JOS

321. RE: [Alpha87a] Transformer Hum after While

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-07 17:06:59 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 319 Message: 321

Possibly a fan making the noise? There is an optional fan very close to the transformer.

Al

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of jsternmd
Sent: Sunday, December 07, 2008 11:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Transformer Hum after While

When my Alpha 87a has been powered up and in use for a while I hear a distinct, not loud but quite noticeable, hum that was never there before over the transformer area. Before I open her up, any advice if indeed this is the case is it a cause a concern in the amp? Does it signify a soon to fail transformer?

73
Jerry
K1JOS

322. Re: Transformer Hum after While

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-08 14:24:40 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 319 Message: 322

Make sure the voltage switch is always on high... never use the low position. It can cause transformer hum and worse. Mine also hums quite a bit on 24MHz... but not other bands... can't really explain it. Anyway, I rarely use it there.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <jsternmd@...> wrote:
>
> When my Alpha 87a has been powered up and in use for a while I hear a
> distinct, not loud but quite noticeable, hum that was never there
> before over the transformer area. Before I open her up, any advice
if
> indeed this is the case is it a cause a concern in the amp? Does it
> signify a soon to fail transformer?
>
> 73
> Jerry
> K1JOS
>

323. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Transformer Hum after While

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-08 15:44:22 UTC
From: jim@walkersdomain.com
Topic: 319 Message: 323

Agreed.

?

Mine will hum on the low voltage position.? I always use the high voltage position.

Jim

KBØX

?

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Transformer Hum after While
From: "Mel"
Date: Mon, December 08, 2008 8:24 am
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Make sure the voltage switch is always on high... never use the low
position. It can cause transformer hum and worse. Mine also hums quite
a bit on 24MHz... but not other bands... can't really explain it.
Anyway, I rarely use it there.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" wrote:
>
> When my Alpha 87a has been powered up and in use for a while I hear a
> distinct, not loud but quite noticeable, hum that was never there
> before over the transformer area. Before I open her up, any advice
if
> indeed this is the case is it a cause a concern in the amp? Does it
> signify a soon to fail transformer?
>
> 73
> Jerry
> K1JOS
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/

<*> Your email settings:
Individual Email | Traditional

<*> To change settings online go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/join
(Yahoo! ID required)

<*> To change settings via email:
mailto:Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com
(http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php#Compose)
mailto:Alpha87a-fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com
(http://email.secureserver.net/pcompose.php#Compose)

<*> To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

<*> Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

324. IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-14 03:16:07 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 324 Message: 324

I finally have the 220 in my shack. Now I am about to hook my 756 up to the amp and I am wondering. Can I just hook the ALC and relay connects from the Icom to the Alpha or do I need to add a relay, etc?

Thanks,
D.

325. Re: IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-14 05:52:35 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 324 Message: 325

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>

Darin,

You should only need one relay cable from the Icom to the 87A relay terminal. Unless you are going to use ALC. But I think Alpha does not recommend ALC.
Make sure you wire the relay cable according to Icom, then just plug it into the 87A relay terminal and you should be all set.

Tomy kf7gc

> I finally have the 220 in my shack. Now I am about to hook my 756 up to the amp and I am
> wondering. Can I just hook the ALC and relay connects from the Icom to the Alpha or do I
> need to add a relay, etc?
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

326. Re: IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-14 12:54:33 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 324 Message: 326

You don't need a relay... in fact better not to use one.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> I finally have the 220 in my shack. Now I am about to hook my 756 up
to the amp and I am
> wondering. Can I just hook the ALC and relay connects from the Icom
to the Alpha or do I
> need to add a relay, etc?
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

327. RE: [Alpha87a] IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-14 15:12:14 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 324 Message: 327

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Darin Divinia
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2008 10:16 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

I finally have the 220 in my shack. Now I am about to hook my 756 up to the amp and I am
wondering. Can I just hook the ALC and relay connects from the Icom to the Alpha or do I
need to add a relay, etc?

Thanks,
D.

I do not use the ALC as recommended by Alpha. I use the Ameritron ARB-704 interface. Before I bought the interface I had relay "sticking" problems.

73, Al_

328. Re: IC-756 Pro ii with Alpha 87A question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-15 04:37:41 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 324 Message: 328

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tomy" <kf7gc@...> wrote:
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@> wrote:
> >
>
> Darin,
>
> You should only need one relay cable from the Icom to the 87A relay
> terminal. Unless you are going to use ALC. But I think Alpha does
> not recommend ALC.
> Make sure you wire the relay cable according to Icom, then just plug
> it into the 87A relay terminal and you should be all set.
>
> Tomy kf7gc

Cool deal guys - worked great with only a relay RCA cable. I got to try it out in the 10mtr contest. It sure makes a difference. First amp in 10+ yrs. The last one was a Ten Tec Titan. I really like that amp, but this one has it beat. Now, I do miss that external power supply!

73,
D.

329. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-17 09:26:07 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 329

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /A other remote control program/alpha_87a_communication.exe
Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
Description : alpha_87a_communication.exe with meter panel

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/A%20other%20remote%20control%20program/alpha_87a_communication.exe

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

hb9zs <hb9zs@...>

330. Tuner with Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-17 17:17:43 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 330 Message: 330

I am looking at adding an antenna tuner to my station. I have some old Tokyo Hi Power and Dentron ones in the garage, but I am thinking of a new Palstar AT-AUTO.

Advice, comments, etc?

Thanks,
D.

331. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuner with Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-17 19:17:51 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 330 Message: 331

I use an AT-AUTO with my 87A, works fine.

I have an extra AT-AUTO for sale if you are interested.

Philip

Darin Divinia wrote:
> I am looking at adding an antenna tuner to my station. I have some old Tokyo Hi Power and
> Dentron ones in the garage, but I am thinking of a new Palstar AT-AUTO.
>
> Advice, comments, etc?
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>
>
>
>
> ----------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

332. Re: Tuner with Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 13:58:54 UTC
From: jlawson40
Topic: 330 Message: 332

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> I am looking at adding an antenna tuner to my station. I have some old Tokyo Hi Power and
> Dentron ones in the garage, but I am thinking of a new Palstar AT-AUTO.
>
> Advice, comments, etc?
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

Darin,

I also use an AT-AUTO with my 87A. It works great. Just remember to read the AT-AUTO manual before putting it on the air. Good luck.

John--W8AGS

333. Re:Tuner with Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 17:59:53 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 330 Message: 333

I have been using a Nye Viking MB-V-A manual antenna tuner for about 3+ years now and think it is a very good tuner. It is built to handle anything the Alpha 87A will throw at it, and since I operate 80M and 160M, it is pretty much a necessity.

They are no longer manufactured or supported. There are plenty of them out there, but you have to be careful to make sure you are getting one where the auto range function is working properly. It automatically switches from the 300W range to the 3KW range when you exceed 300 watts. If you find a good deal on one where this is not functioning, you might be content to make a good buy and then use an external cross-needle SWR meter. Even with the kind of problems you can run into on 160M, I haven't had a problem with this tuner.

John Owens - N7TK

334. Soft Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 20:32:52 UTC
From: k2waltk@gmail.com
Topic: 334 Message: 334

A soft fault 17 is:
" Abnormally low or high power gain. Usually due to mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc."

I opened up the 87a and blew all the dust out of the unit, I blew all the residue off the
fins of the 3cx800's and I'm still getting this fault. SWR is below 2:1, the fault doesn't occur
into a dummy load and it happens on seems to happen on my 40 & 80 meter dipoles.
Anyone have a clue as to what's going on? I'm at a a point where I want to replace all the
coax to the antennas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
2930 Red Hill Road
Gordonsville, VA 22942-6110
k2waltk@...
k2wk@...

335. RE: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 21:02:31 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 334 Message: 335

Sounds like a high power breakdown of the coax. Are you reading ant swr with low power exciter?

Jim K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of k2waltk@...
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 12:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

A soft fault 17 is:

" Abnormally low or high power gain. Usually due to mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc."

I opened up the 87a and blew all the dust out of the unit, I blew all the residue off the

fins of the 3cx800's and I'm still getting this fault. SWR is below 2:1, the fault doesn't occur

into a dummy load and it happens on seems to happen on my 40 & 80 meter dipoles.

Anyone have a clue as to what's going on? I'm at a a point where I want to replace all the

coax to the antennas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
2930 Red Hill Road
Gordonsville, VA 22942-6110
k2waltk@...

k2wk@...

336. RE: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 21:17:23 UTC
From: k2waltk@gmail.com
Topic: 334 Message: 336

I'm finding that RG-8X may last for a short term at handling legal power, but in the
long run I need to replace that cable with RG-213/LMR-400 or equivalent. As long
as I run 750 Watts all is OK, but at higher power levels the fault appears. The coax has
to be arcing over at higher power levels.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of James Denneny
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 4:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

Sounds like a high power breakdown of the coax. Are you reading ant swr
with low power exciter?

Jim K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of k2waltk@...
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 12:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

A soft fault 17 is:

" Abnormally low or high power gain. Usually due to mis-tuning or possibly
an RF arc."

I opened up the 87a and blew all the dust out of the unit, I blew all the
residue off the

fins of the 3cx800's and I'm still getting this fault. SWR is below 2:1,
the fault doesn't occur

into a dummy load and it happens on seems to happen on my 40 & 80 meter
dipoles.

Anyone have a clue as to what's going on? I'm at a a point where I want to
replace all the

coax to the antennas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
2930 Red Hill Road
Gordonsville, VA 22942-6110
k2waltk@...

k2wk@...

337. Re: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-18 21:18:05 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 334 Message: 337

Hello Walt,

The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. If it is only on a couple of bands, it may be the bandswitch position, or just the tuning of the amp.

1) does your amp have the AlphaMax firmware, and are you letting it tune itself?

2) Have you tuned it up on 40 and 80m and saved the settings in the User memories?

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Thu, Dec 18, 2008 at 1:32 PM, <k2waltk@...> wrote:
> A soft fault 17 is:
>
> " Abnormally low or high power gain. Usually due to mis-tuning or possibly
> an RF arc."
>
> I opened up the 87a and blew all the dust out of the unit, I blew all the
> residue off the
>
> fins of the 3cx800's and I'm still getting this fault. SWR is below 2:1,
> the fault doesn't occur into a dummy load and it happens on seems
> to happen on my 40 & 80 meter dipoles.
> Anyone have a clue as to what's going on? I'm at a a point where I want to
> replace all the coax to the antennas.
> Thank you for your time and consideration.
>
> Walt Kornienko - K2WK
> k2wk@...

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

338. Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-19 17:40:21 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 334 Message: 338

I've always been under the impression that RG-8U coax at a minimum
should be used when running high power >500W
So all coax from the Amp out should be RG-8 or larger.

Coax like RG-8X would then be too small to run under this power level,
so what are others thoughts & feelings on this?

73, Clint
WS1V

339. Re: Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-19 17:44:13 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 334 Message: 339

correct!!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> I've always been under the impression that RG-8U coax at a minimum
> should be used when running high power >500W
> So all coax from the Amp out should be RG-8 or larger.
>
> Coax like RG-8X would then be too small to run under this power level,
> so what are others thoughts & feelings on this?
>
> 73, Clint
> WS1V
>

340. Outboard keyer interface?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-20 07:08:46 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 340 Message: 340

Anyone here using an outboard keyer interface with their 87A?
Any reccomendations here?

73,Clint
WS1V

341. Re:Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-21 01:11:44 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 334 Message: 341

I use rg8x for my jumpers in the shack , usually only a couple of feet long. If you use good stuff, it does ok on short runs, like a couple of feet. I use lmr 400 for the long runs outside from the switch panel, but I go from the orion to the ICE 419 to the alpha with rg8x and then from the alpha to the bandpass filter to the switch panel with 8x and from the switch to the antenna with lmr 400. good rg8x seems to hold up fine for short runs at the higher power. but then again I usually only run 1000 to 1200 watts on SSB (low duty cycle) and 800 to 1000 on CW and no more than 800 on rtty or FM. works for me

Tom
N6AJR

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(http://www.aol.com/?optin=new-dp&icid=aolcom40vanity&ncid=emlcntaolcom00000025)

342. Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-21 18:53:47 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 342 Message: 342

On the issue of replacing the 3CX800A7 amplifier tubes in the 87A, I have heard various opinions over the years. I know there is a question of availablity of the tubes now due to a shortage in the marketplace, but that is a separate issue. Please contribute what you know about this issue.

Now concerning replacement of the 3CX800A7's, the opinions seem to fall into the following categories:

1. It is critical and necessary that they be replaced in pairs with matched tubes. I think ALPHA sells them this way, but couldn't find it in a search of their website on the 87A. Apparently a phone call will be required which I will do. I assume this means that they set up an amplifier circuit, measure the critical tube parameters, and then sort them based on this info.

2. Not critical as long as they are replaced as a pair of tubes from the same manufacturer, and production lot.

3. Not a critical or problematic issue and you can even replace one at a time.

No doubt many of you have experience or knowledge on this issue, and hopefully you will share this with me and the reflector. It is an important issue for all to understand. Your help and opinions will be apprecaited.

Thank You
John Owens - N7TK

343. Re:Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-21 22:28:34 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 334 Message: 343

Tom,
Thanks for the info
Good to know RG8X might workout ok, thats what I'm using for most of my jumpers. Now I'm sure I read somewhere that the 87A requires a certain lenght of jumper from radio to amp? Does the type of coax matter 50 vs 75 ohm etc?

Clint
WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, catfishtwo@... wrote:
>
> I use rg8x for my jumpers in the shack , usually only a couple of feet
> long. If you use good stuff, it does ok on short runs, like a couple of feet. I
> use lmr 400 for the long runs outside from the switch panel, but I go from
> the orion to the ICE 419 to the alpha with rg8x and then from the alpha to
> the bandpass filter to the switch panel with 8x and from the switch to the
> antenna with lmr 400. good rg8x seems to hold up fine for short runs at the
> higher power. but then again I usually only run 1000 to 1200 watts on SSB (
> low duty cycle) and 800 to 1000 on CW and no more than 800 on rtty or FM.
> works for me
>
> Tom
> N6AJR
>
> **********One site keeps you connected to all your email: AOL Mail,
> Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. Try it now.
>
(http://www.aol.com/?optin=new-dp&icid=aolcom40vanity&ncid=emlcntaolcom00000025)
>

344. Re: Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-22 15:50:25 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 334 Message: 344

You can even run RG58 at legal limit on lower bands... providing that the SWR isn't too high... I did it for years with a sloper array on 80M and never had a failure. The 500W limit is at 30MHz. It can handle a lot more power at lower frequencies... but you have to watch the voltage... dielectric breakdown if the SWR gets too high is a real possibility. I would not hesitate to use RG8X but there are also some caveats... while RG8X can handle the power safely, voltage breakdown could be a problem if you kink, pinch or otherwise damage the coax. I generally use RG8X coax jumpers in the shack... they are a lot more flexible. I have also used RG8X or even RG58 feedlines for low band dipoles as they are a lot lighter than RG8.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clintws1v" <clintws1v@...> wrote:
>
> I've always been under the impression that RG-8U coax at a minimum
> should be used when running high power >500W
> So all coax from the Amp out should be RG-8 or larger.
>
> Coax like RG-8X would then be too small to run under this power level,
> so what are others thoughts & feelings on this?
>
> 73, Clint
> WS1V
>

345. Re:Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-22 19:10:44 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 334 Message: 345

I don't know about that.
I know the old Collins rigs need a specific length of cable for some reason, but I think the best length for the 87 a is one long enough to go from radio to amp.

I never heard of a specific length need for the Alpha

Tom N6AJR

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(http://www.aol.com/?optin=new-dp&icid=aolcom40vanity&ncid=emlcntaolcom00000025)

346. Re:Coax size for HPower applications?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-22 19:39:19 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 334 Message: 346

The manual for the 87 says.

6.1 Connect a 72" long 50 ohm coax cable (supplied) from the TRX to
the 87.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, catfishtwo@... wrote:
>
> I don't know about that.
> I know the old Collins rigs need a specific length of cable for
some
> reason, but I think the best length for the 87 a is one long enough
to go from
> radio to amp.
>
> I never heard of a specific length need for the Alpha
>
> Tom N6AJR
>
>
> **********One site keeps you connected to all your email: AOL
Mail,
> Gmail, and Yahoo Mail. Try it now.
> (http://www.aol.com/?optin=new-
dp&icid=aolcom40vanity&ncid=emlcntaolcom00000025)
>

347. Coax Length - 72" question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-23 14:34:10 UTC
From: Divinia Darin
Topic: 347 Message: 347

I had the same question. Here is what I got back from Alpha:

> Darin,
> The 72" is what we set the input match up to use. If you are not
> experincing input SWR problems on 10 meters then it is not required.
> What you are using should be fine.
> 73,
> Brad
>
> From: Divinia Darin [mailto:wg5j@...]
> Sent: Tue 12/16/2008 12:48 PM
> To: alphaservice
> Subject: Alpha 87A Question
>
> On page 13 of the operation manual it indicates that I should use a
> 72" coax to connect my transceiver to the Alpha 87A.
>
> I bought my unit used. It did not come with any coax.
>
> Is there something magic about 72"?
>
> I am using a jumper made out of RX-8 that is approximately 36" long.
>
> It might be a stupid question, but I have never seen a length
> indicated before. So, I figured i would ask. At least I am reading
> the manual!
>
> Also, this thing rocks.
>
> Thanks,
> Darin
>
> ----------
> Darin Divinia
> wg5j@...
>

Darin Divinia
wg5j@...

348. Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-30 17:33:13 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 342 Message: 348

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, jcowens1@... wrote:
>
> On the issue of replacing the 3CX800A7 amplifier tubes in the 87A, I have heard various opinions over the years. I know there is a question of availablity of the tubes now due to a
shortage in the marketplace, but that is a separate issue. Please contribute what you know about this issue.
>
> Now concerning replacement of the 3CX800A7's, the opinions seem to fall into the following categories:
>
> 1. It is critical and necessary that they be replaced in pairs with matched tubes. I think
ALPHA sells them this way, but couldn't find it in a search of their website on the 87A. Apparently a phone call will be required which I will do. I assume this means that they set up an amplifier circuit, measure the critical tube parameters, and then sort them based on this info.
>
> 2. Not critical as long as they are replaced as a pair of tubes from the same manufacturer, and production lot.
>
> 3. Not a critical or problematic issue and you can even replace one at a time.
>
> No doubt many of you have experience or knowledge on this issue, and hopefully you will share this with me and the reflector. It is an important issue for all to understand. Your help and opinions will be apprecaited.
>
> Thank You
> John Owens - N7TK
>

How often do you have to replace tubes? I guess I have never owned an AMP long enough to need to replace them. I suspect I will have this 87A for a long time, so I guess I need to
consider the issue. How much are a matched set anyway? Maybe we should do a group buy or something to get a lower price.

D.

349. Fault 11

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-30 17:54:50 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 349 Message: 349

I have read the manual, but what does a Fault 11 really mean? Am I pushing the amp too hard? Seems to happen on 20 Mtr SSB most often.

SWR is good - into a Steppir, watching power and SWR with a PowerMaster meter.

Thanks,
D.

350. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-30 18:13:25 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 342 Message: 350

I picked up a new pair of 3CXP800A7's at a real good price
and I have heard from many hams running them in a 87a
with no problems.

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Darin Divinia
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 5:33 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, jcowens1@... wrote:
>
> On the issue of replacing the 3CX800A7 amplifier tubes in the 87A, I have heard various
opinions over the years. I know there is a question of availablity of the tubes now due to
a
shortage in the marketplace, but that is a separate issue. Please contribute what you know
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Apparently a phone call will be required which I will do. I assume this means that they set
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>
> 3. Not a critical or problematic issue and you can even replace one at a time.
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Your help and opinions will be apprecaited.
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> John Owens - N7TK
>

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consider the issue. How much are a matched set anyway? Maybe we should do a group buy or something to get a lower price.

D.

351. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-30 18:16:27 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 342 Message: 351

"Sorry should have read: 3CPX800A7 Pulse Tubes"

I picked up a new pair of 3CXP800A7's at a real good price
and I have heard from many hams running them in a 87a
with no problems.

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

352. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 11

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-30 21:59:18 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 349 Message: 352

Hello Darin,

Fault 11 usually means that one of the variable capacitors (TUNE or LOAD) is shorting, or the PIN diode Transmit-bias voltage is low.

If it eventually faults on all bands, check the 1/4 amp fuse in the Output T/R Module. It is a small clear and white fuse that plugs into a white socket on the circuit board.
Also look for any other burned parts in the T/R module while checking the fuse. Look for the leads of PIN diodes recently changed that may be touching the chassis?

Fault 11 is fairly unusual and we don't have any set guidelines for troubleshooting that, other than tracking down the T-bias circuit.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 10:54 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@...> wrote:
> I have read the manual, but what does a Fault 11 really mean? Am I pushing
> the amp too hard? Seems to happen on 20 Mtr SSB most often.
>
> SWR is good - into a Steppir, watching power and SWR with a PowerMaster
> meter.

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

353. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 11

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-31 15:34:03 UTC
From: Divinia Darin
Topic: 349 Message: 353

Thanks for the response.

To check the fuse, do I need to pull the cover off the T/R
Compartment? I am looking at figure 4 in the manual.

Where are the PIN Diodes located?

Sorry if these are bone head questions - new to this amp.

Thanks,
D.

Darin Divinia
wg5j@...

On Dec 30, 2008, at 3:59 PM, Glenn AE0Q wrote:

> Hello Darin,
>
> Fault 11 usually means that one of the variable capacitors (TUNE or
> LOAD) is shorting, or the PIN diode Transmit-bias voltage is low.
>
> If it eventually faults on all bands, check the 1/4 amp fuse in the
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> Also look for any other burned parts in the T/R module while checking
> the fuse. Look for the leads of PIN diodes recently changed that may
> be touching the chassis?
>
> Fault 11 is fairly unusual and we don't have any set guidelines for
> troubleshooting that, other than tracking down the T-bias circuit.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> Alpha Radio Products
>
>
> On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 10:54 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@...> wrote:
>> I have read the manual, but what does a Fault 11 really mean? Am I
>> pushing
>> the amp too hard? Seems to happen on 20 Mtr SSB most often.
>>
>> SWR is good - into a Steppir, watching power and SWR with a
>> PowerMaster
>> meter.
>
> --

> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

354. Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-31 16:07:08 UTC
From: Paul Sturpe
Topic: 277 Message: 354

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Christopher Platt" <vk5jjj@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
> for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?
>
> vk5cp
>
I am having the same problem as reported by vk5cp. My 87A is no longer communicating via the RS-232 port. I have tried all the solutions suggested in this thread (plus others, such as changing cables and ports) with no solution.

I dropped a note to Alpha today, but while I am awaiting their reply, does anyone have any trouble shooting ideas?

Paul, W3GQ

355. Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2008-12-31 19:02:33 UTC
From: John Owens
Topic: 342 Message: 355

To Paul, Darin and others on this subject. I specifically asked about the 3CWP800A7's and was told by Alpha not to use them. If they are wowrking for folks, that is good to know. They are designed for medical electronics in pulse applications, and have to be replaced after a cerain number of operational use hours, regardless of how they are workiing. That is why there are a lot of them available in the used tube market. I think each individual has to make that choice.

I did make the call to Alpha after posting my email to the group, and was advised that the tubes should be replaced in matched pairs. They say they have a special version of the Eimac 3CX800A7 which is designated the Y238, which apparently is a special design which results in lower grid current. They only sell Eimac tubes. A matched pair sells for around $2000.

I talked to the lead engineer at RF Parts and asked him about this situation. They do not sell tubes in matched pairs as it would require a definition of the critical paramaters for the particular amplifier application, and would require a special test bed to measaure these. He feels that if you purchases 2 Eimac Tubes from the same production lot, that you should have no problems using them without special testing and sorting. If you ask for it, they would ensure that the tube pair came from the same production lot. I believe a pair of these are around $1300.

I personally am inclined to wait until mine start to show weakening tendencies, and then I would buy a pair from RF Parts. Who knows when that might happen as they continue to produce 1500W+ output with 50-60 W drive power on all bands. I continue to be amazed that these tubes can last this long, but I know of many others that are hanging in there after this many years of use.

John Owens - N7TK

Considering that my amplifier is already 15 years old with the original, well functioning tubes still in it, the Y*238 thing seems irrelivent. I am sure it did not exist in 1993.

356. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-02 04:33:16 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 277 Message: 356

Paul,

Have you checked the port assignments?

Go to MY COMPUTER, VIEW SYSTEM INFORMATION, click on HARDWARE tab,
then DEVICE MANAGER. Check the COM port assignments, sometimes
windows changes them on its own :-(Your serial port might be not be
the same COM setting that it used to be.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Wed, Dec 31, 2008 at 9:07 AM, Paul Sturpe <sturpe@...> wrote:
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Christopher Platt" <vk5jjj@...> wrote:
>>
>> Hi all, I got the aplha remote software talking via a serial port but
>> for some reason it has stopped talking. Any ideas? Easy tests?
>>
>> vk5cp
>>
> I am having the same problem as reported by vk5cp. My 87A is no longer
> communicating via the RS-232 port. I have tried all the solutions
> suggested in this thread (plus others, such as changing cables and
> ports) with no solution.
>
> I dropped a note to Alpha today, but while I am awaiting their reply,
> does anyone have any trouble shooting ideas?
>
> Paul, W3GQ
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

357. Re: Apha remote software not responding anymore

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-02 13:06:45 UTC
From: Paul Sturpe
Topic: 277 Message: 357

Yes, the port assignment is correct.

Paul, W3GQ

358. Re: Amplifier Tubes Replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-02 14:08:43 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 342 Message: 358

Is anyone using Svetlana tubes? A pair cost about $900. Quite a saving!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "John Owens" <jcowens1@...> wrote:
>
> To Paul, Darin and others on this subject. I specifically asked about the 3CWP800A7's and was told by Alpha not to use them. If they are wowrking for folks, that is good to know. They are designed for medical electronics in pulse applications, and have to be replaced after a cerain number of operational use hours, regardless of how they are workiing. That is why there are a lot of them available in the used tube market. I think each individual has to make that choice.
>
> I did make the call to Alpha after posting my email to the group, and was advised that the tubes should be replaced in matched pairs. They say they have a special version of the Eimac 3CX800A7 which is designated the Y238, which apparently is a special design which results in lower grid current. They only sell Eimac tubes. A matched pair sells for around $2000.
>
> I talked to the lead engineer at RF Parts and asked him about this situation. They do not sell tubes in matched pairs as it would require a definition of the critical paramaters for the particular amplifier application, and would require a special test bed to measaure these. He feels that if you purchases 2 Eimac Tubes from the same production lot, that you should have no problems using them without special testing and sorting. If you ask for it, they would ensure that the tube pair came from the same production lot. I believe a pair of these are around $1300.
>
> I personally am inclined to wait until mine start to show weakening tendencies, and then I would buy a pair from RF Parts. Who knows when that might happen as they continue to produce 1500W+ output with 50-60 W drive power on all bands. I continue to be amazed that these tubes can last this long, but I know of many others that are hanging in there after this many years of use.
>
> John Owens - N7TK
>
> Considering that my amplifier is already 15 years old with the original, well functioning tubes still in it, the Y*238 thing seems irrelivent. I am sure it did not exist in 1993.
>

359. Amps on Ebay

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-02 23:48:47 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 359 Message: 359

I just found this on Ebay
hehe, amazing

copy and past this to see it..

http://cgi.ebay.com/10-METER-RF-AMPLIFIER-DODGE-VAN-bell-system_W0QQitemZ200294272397QQcmdZViewItemQQptZLH_DefaultDomain_0?hash=item200294272397

What ever next
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

360. HB9ZS Remote & comm ports

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-05 23:09:23 UTC
From: jerryjtb_1
Topic: 360 Message: 360

Can the *&A port be changed from the default comm 6? I presently have comms 3, 4, 5 and 6 already configured in TRX manager.

W0ZD

361. Re: Coax Length - 72" question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-05 23:20:05 UTC
From: jerryjtb_1
Topic: 347 Message: 361

Darin,

Way back in the sixties they recommended ~60 inches for the Collins amps. I don't recall the exact theory but I believe it is a magical length that provides the best exciter match to amp.

From the bottom section of W2AJI's web page

http://home.earthlink.net/~cherokeehillfarm/id2.html

"Collins indicated that this special length of coax acted as a kind of transformer, and provided an even multiple of 180 degrees of phase shift to provide for the lowest amplifier output distortion".

W0ZD

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Divinia Darin <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> I had the same question. Here is what I got back from Alpha:
>
>
> > Darin,
> > The 72" is what we set the input match up to use. If you are
not
> > experincing input SWR problems on 10 meters then it is not
required.
> > What you are using should be fine.
> > 73,
> > Brad
> >
> > From: Divinia Darin [mailto:wg5j@...]
> > Sent: Tue 12/16/2008 12:48 PM
> > To: alphaservice
> > Subject: Alpha 87A Question
> >
> > On page 13 of the operation manual it indicates that I should use
a
> > 72" coax to connect my transceiver to the Alpha 87A.
> >
> > I bought my unit used. It did not come with any coax.
> >
> > Is there something magic about 72"?
> >
> > I am using a jumper made out of RX-8 that is approximately 36"
long.
> >

> > It might be a stupid question, but I have never seen a length
> > indicated before. So, I figured i would ask. At least I am
reading
> > the manual!
> >
> > Also, this thing rocks.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > Darin
> >
> > ----------
> > Darin Divinia
> > wg5j@...
> >
> ----------
> Darin Divinia
> wg5j@...
>

362. Re: HB9ZS Remote & comm ports

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-06 11:49:42 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 360 Message: 362

The latest program release (refere to the file section)
is checking the ports of your computer and will dispaly all unused
ports. To config the port settings you have to take care that the port
you like to use is not allready used by a other program and open.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jerryjtb_1" <jerryjtb@...> wrote:
>
> Can the *&A port be changed from the default comm 6? I presently have
> comms 3, 4, 5 and 6 already configured in TRX manager.
>
> W0ZD
>

363. HB9ZS remote program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-12 18:05:19 UTC
From: Steve
Topic: 363 Message: 363

Hi,

I just downloaded the remote program wrote by Walter HB9ZS from the file section. I have it up and working with TRX Manager now.

I have it running for two amplifiers, I just opened the program a second time for a second com port. Not that I will probably ever have both amps running while I am remote, but that is the way I have it set up in the shack using one amp only on 7 MHz. It works fine, I can control both amps independently.

Thank you for a great program Walter, I am now able to monitor my power output, swr, plate and grid current while remote. If only IP sound and log me in goes as easy which is my next step as Id like to set up my IC-7800 for remote CW only.

73, Steve N6TT

364. Re: Fault 11

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-16 04:44:56 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 349 Message: 364

Well the problem is way worse on SSB than CW regardless of power. On 75 this evening I could not even complete an exchange without it tripping even at reduced power. I put it in CW mode and runs full legal limit no problem. I will try the other bands, but I guess I will be checking under the hood soon to get a closer look.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Darin,
>
> Fault 11 usually means that one of the variable capacitors (TUNE or
> LOAD) is shorting, or the PIN diode Transmit-bias voltage is low.
>
> If it eventually faults on all bands, check the 1/4 amp fuse in the
> Output T/R Module. It is a small clear and white fuse that plugs
> into a white socket on the circuit board.
> Also look for any other burned parts in the T/R module while checking
> the fuse. Look for the leads of PIN diodes recently changed that may
> be touching the chassis?
>
> Fault 11 is fairly unusual and we don't have any set guidelines for
> troubleshooting that, other than tracking down the T-bias circuit.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> Alpha Radio Products
>
>
> On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 10:54 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@...> wrote:
> > I have read the manual, but what does a Fault 11 really mean? Am I pushing
> > the amp too hard? Seems to happen on 20 Mtr SSB most often.
> >
> > SWR is good - into a Steppir, watching power and SWR with a PowerMaster
> > meter.
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

365. Re: Fault 11

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-16 13:32:50 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 349 Message: 365

Hello Darin
Ckeck your main power. Is it in the range of the tap settings of the transformer. Also with full load. This can be the reason for low bias voltage.

73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> Well the problem is way worse on SSB than CW regardless of power. On 75 this evening I
> could not even complete an exchange without it tripping even at reduced power. I put it
> in CW mode and runs full legal limit no problem. I will try the other bands, but I guess I
> will be checking under the hood soon to get a closer look.
>
> D.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@> wrote:
> >
> > Hello Darin,
> >
> > Fault 11 usually means that one of the variable capacitors (TUNE or
> > LOAD) is shorting, or the PIN diode Transmit-bias voltage is low.
> >
> > If it eventually faults on all bands, check the 1/4 amp fuse in the
> > Output T/R Module. It is a small clear and white fuse that plugs
> > into a white socket on the circuit board.
> > Also look for any other burned parts in the T/R module while checking
> > the fuse. Look for the leads of PIN diodes recently changed that may
> > be touching the chassis?
> >
> > Fault 11 is fairly unusual and we don't have any set guidelines for
> > troubleshooting that, other than tracking down the T-bias circuit.
> >
> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> > Alpha Radio Products
> >

> >
> > On Tue, Dec 30, 2008 at 10:54 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@> wrote:
> > > I have read the manual, but what does a Fault 11 really mean?
Am I pushing
> > > the amp too hard? Seems to happen on 20 Mtr SSB most often.
> > >
> > > SWR is good - into a Steppir, watching power and SWR with a
PowerMaster
> > > meter.
> >
> > --
> > "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
> >
> > AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> > ae0q@ --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> > http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
> >
>

366. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-17 08:59:30 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 366

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /A other remote control program/CommServer_Install.exe
Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
Description : "Communication Server" to "Alpha87a Communication" program

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/A%20other%20remote%20control%20program/CommSe
rver_Install.exe

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

hb9zs <hb9zs@...>

367. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-17 09:22:29 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 367

```
Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /A other remote control program/alpha87a_cat_control.exe
Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
Description : Alpha 87a Communication (Program)

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/A%20other%20remote%20control%20program/alpha8
7a_cat_control.exe

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
```

368. Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-19 15:13:32 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 368 Message: 368

What is the difference between a 87A and a 87A Omega?

Thanks,
D.

369. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-19 16:31:55 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 368 Message: 369

The Omega was the final production version. I "think" Omega came with AlphaMax factory pre-installed. I would imagine it incorporated other "lessons learned" mods along the way.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Darin Divinia
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 7:14 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

What is the difference between a 87A and a 87A Omega?

Thanks,
D.

370. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-19 21:10:00 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 368 Message: 370

Hello Jim and Darin,

The 87A Omega model was the last 20 Alpha 87A amps made. The coils in the RF section and other copper strap material is gold plated (instead of silver plated as in all other Alpha amps). The model lettering on the front panel is also in gold.

All 87A amps made since late 1999 have had the AlphaMax firmware installed. The datecode of manufacture is part of the amplifier serial number.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Jan 19, 2009 at 9:31 AM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
> The Omega was the final production version. I "think" Omega came with
> AlphaMax factory pre-installed. I would imagine it incorporated other
> "lessons learned" mods along the way.
> Jim K7EG
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of Darin Divinia
> Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 7:14 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

> What is the difference between a 87A and a 87A Omega?
>
> Thanks,
> D.

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

371. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-19 21:39:19 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 368 Message: 371

Glenn: Thanks for the clarification.

Jim,K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 1:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the
difference

Hello Jim and Darin,

The 87A Omega model was the last 20 Alpha 87A amps made. The coils in
the RF section and other copper strap material is gold plated (instead
of silver plated as in all other Alpha amps). The model lettering on
the front panel is also in gold.

All 87A amps made since late 1999 have had the AlphaMax firmware
installed. The datecode of manufacture is part of the amplifier
serial number.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Jan 19, 2009 at 9:31 AM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...
<mailto:57JNDenneny%40comcast.net> > wrote:
> The Omega was the final production version. I "think" Omega came with
> AlphaMax factory pre-installed. I would imagine it incorporated other
> "lessons learned" mods along the way.
> Jim K7EG
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> Of Darin Divinia
> Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 7:14 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

> What is the difference between a 87A and a 87A Omega?
>
> Thanks,
> D.

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... <mailto:ae0q%40arrl.net> --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

372. Re: Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-20 06:20:01 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 368 Message: 372

Cool deal - thanks for the info.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Jim and Darin,
>
> The 87A Omega model was the last 20 Alpha 87A amps made. The coils in
> the RF section and other copper strap material is gold plated (instead
> of silver plated as in all other Alpha amps). The model lettering on
> the front panel is also in gold.
>
> All 87A amps made since late 1999 have had the AlphaMax firmware
> installed. The datecode of manufacture is part of the amplifier
> serial number.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> On Mon, Jan 19, 2009 at 9:31 AM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
> > The Omega was the final production version. I "think" Omega came with
> > AlphaMax factory pre-installed. I would imagine it incorporated other
> > "lessons learned" mods along the way.
> > Jim K7EG
> >
> > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> > Of Darin Divinia
> > Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 7:14 AM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A vs. Alpha 87A Omega - What is the difference
>
> > What is the difference between a 87A and a 87A Omega?
> >
> > Thanks,
> > D.
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

373. New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-01-31 23:39:06 UTC
From: hwingate
Topic: 373 Message: 373

I just purchased an 87a from an estate, and it has been sitting in storage for over 10 years. Any thoughts on bringing it up slowly ? Or should I just plug it in and flip the switch ?

Also I got no manual, but the one I downloaded from Alpha mentions the AlphaMax software. How do I tell if I have this installed ?
Thanks
Henry

374. Re: [Alpha87a] New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 00:05:06 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 373 Message: 374

Lucky man,

I wish I could find a 87A sitting for 10 years from an estate.

Congrats.

Still looking for a 87A in the San Francisco Bay area.

73

From: hwingate <hwingate@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 3:39:06 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] New (to me) 87A

I just purchased an 87a from an estate, and it has been sitting in storage for over 10 years. Any thoughts on bringing it up slowly ? Or should I just plug it in and flip the switch ?

Also I got no manual, but the one I downloaded from Alpha mentions the AlphaMax software. How do I tell if I have this installed ?
Thanks
Henry

375. Re: [Alpha87a] New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 00:36:58 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 373 Message: 375

Hi Henry,

if you press both the "enter" and the "load" button at the same time
this will put the amp into AlphaMax mode and the "Default" LED will keep flashing.

Or you can connect the amp to your pc running terminal program and I think
it will display what version it has. "I think"

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: hwingate
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 11:39 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] New (to me) 87A

I just purchased an 87a from an estate, and it has been sitting in
storage for over 10 years. Any thoughts on bringing it up slowly ? Or
should I just plug it in and flip the switch ?

Also I got no manual, but the one I downloaded from Alpha mentions the
AlphaMax software. How do I tell if I have this installed ?
Thanks
Henry

376. Re: [Alpha87a] New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 01:32:11 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 373 Message: 376

Hello Henry,

You cannot bring up the line voltage slowly with an Alpha amp, the step-start circuit must energize quickly or the stepstart resistor(s) will be damaged.

As already noted, with amp warmed up and in Operate, pressing ENTER and LOAD^ at same time enable AlphaMax (autotune). All 87A amps made since late 1999 have the latest firmware installed, it is version 1.00AT. Connecting to the serial port will show the version by typing the VER command.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Sat, Jan 31, 2009 at 4:39 PM, hwingate <hwingate@...> wrote:
> I just purchased an 87a from an estate, and it has been sitting in
> storage for over 10 years. Any thoughts on bringing it up slowly ? Or
> should I just plug it in and flip the switch ?
>
> Also I got no manual, but the one I downloaded from Alpha mentions the
> AlphaMax software. How do I tell if I have this installed ?
> Thanks
> Henry
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

377. New 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 17:43:22 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 377 Message: 377

I strongly recommend that you ask those questions at Alpha direct. They won't lead you down the wrong path like you will be going if you follow one som of the incorrect adivce you got on this reflector.

John Owens - N7TKe

378. Re: [Alpha87a] New 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 18:27:59 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 377 Message: 378

Hi John,

I find your reply moste strange!!!
to date only a few replies, one from me about AlphaMax
and one from Glenn AE0Q and if you read his message to the end
you will see who he works for.....

Many thanks again for your comments

Paul G0HWC
Moderator Alpha 78a Group
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: jcowens1@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 5:43 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] New 87A

I strongly recommend that you ask those questions at Alpha direct. They won't lead you down the wrong path like you will be going if you follow one som of the incorrect adivce you got on this reflector.

John Owens - N7TKe

379. Re: [Alpha87a] New 87A - Group Owners Reply

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 19:01:17 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 379 Message: 379

John,
As Paul said, I also find your reply odd. We have employees from Alpha who belong to this group, and they are fairly active on here. Molly belongs to my Alpha 9500 group. You stated that there is incorrect advice going around. Why not speak up then? Save someone from having expensive repairs needed to their amplifier and voice your opinion. If you feel that the advice given here is bad, then I invite you to say what is wrong with the given solution.
This group was started to help owners of the Alpha 87A troubleshoot and repair their amplifiers. All suggested "fixes" are done at the owners own risk.
If you feel the advice here is bad John, leave. I see quite a bit when I approve group members "Just got an 87A, need help to get it working". It's fun to see an amplifier go from "Not working" to a "Wow, this is an amazing amp". Paul is a prime example. When he first joined the group, we had about five members. Paul had just acquired an 87A and needed help. He solved his problem with the amp, and promotes the group very nicely. He supports the group and frequently gives advice.
I don't intend to sound "Hard" in this e-mail, but I really don't understand if you feel something is not right, why don't you say it?
If someone on a car forum said the correct way to fix an engine was to cut the brake lines would you speak up? Or let the guy on the other end fine out the hard way he got the wrong fix?

Thank you,
Mike Almeter
W4MJA
Alpha 87A and 9500 Group Owner

--- On Sun, 2/1/09, jcowens1@... <jcowens1@...> wrote:

> From: jcowens1@... <jcowens1@...>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] New 87A
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Date: Sunday, February 1, 2009, 12:43 PM
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> I
> strongly recommend that you ask those questions at Alpha
> direct. They won't lead you down the wrong path like you
> will be going if you follow one som of the incorrect adivce
> you got on this reflector.
>
> John Owens - N7TKe
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380. Rig interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 20:41:20 UTC
From: Wendell Carrington
Topic: 380 Message: 380

Hi, I am new to this group. I use my Icom 7800 and Icom 775DSP with my Alpha 87A. I have an Icom 746PRO and just bought a new Icom 7000 that I Would occasionally like to use with the 87A. Do I need to buy the special Made cables to connect the 746Pro and 7000 or this there another way to Do this? Thanks. 73, Wendell N5WC

381. Re: [Alpha87a] Rig interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-01 21:16:51 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 380 Message: 381

Wendell,
As far as the 746PRO goes, I would say what you are using is fine. The 7000 I am unsure of, due to it's compact size, it may have a different way of keying an amp.

Mike Almeter
W4MJA

--- On Sun, 2/1/09, Wendell Carrington <n5wc@...> wrote:

> From: Wendell Carrington <n5wc@...>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Rig interface
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Date: Sunday, February 1, 2009, 3:41 PM
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>
> Hi, I am new to this group. I use my Icom
> 7800 and Icom 775DSP with my
>
> Alpha 87A. I have an Icom 746PRO and just bought a new
> Icom 7000 that I
>
> Would occasionally like to use with the 87A. Do I need to
> buy the special
>
> Made cables to connect the 746Pro and 7000 or this there
> another way to
>
> Do this? Thanks. 73, Wendell N5WC
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382. Re: [Alpha87a] Rig interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-02 15:33:32 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 380 Message: 382

Hello Wendell,

On the 746PRO you can just connect the SEND jack on rear of the radio
to the RELAY jack of the 87A to key the amplifier.

With the 7000 you will need to connect to the HSEND pin of the ACC
jack (a 13 pin DIN connector). It may be easiest to buy the Icom
cable because of the small size of the 13-pin DIN connector.

The 87A has 5vdc on the RELAY jack, and the current when keyed is less
than 1 mA, so the 87A will not hurt the keying circuit of any radio.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Sun, Feb 1, 2009 at 1:41 PM, Wendell Carrington <n5wc@...> wrote:
> Hi, I am new to this group. I use my Icom 7800 and Icom 775DSP with my
> Alpha 87A. I have an Icom 746PRO and just bought a new Icom 7000 that I
> Would occasionally like to use with the 87A. Do I need to buy the special
> Made cables to connect the 746Pro and 7000 or this there another way to
> Do this? Thanks. 73, Wendell N5WC

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

383. New Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-02 17:57:57 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 383 Message: 383

Apparently I have offended some folks on this reflector and did not intend to do so. That is why I did not use names or email addresses.

My point on this was, and still is, that in trying to resurrect an old amplifier that has been setting unused for a very long time, the first place you should consult with is the manufacturer. There may be folks on this reflector that work for or are associated with Alpha, but if you want to have a chance of success in waking up a long dormant amplifier, contact the manufacturer. That way you know you will be getting the best advice on how to proceed with the task.

If you think my comments were out of line and that I should be removed from the reflector, then please do so. I was merely trying to help him and offer the best adivce I can give him which is what I did.

Sincerely

John Owens - N7TK

384. Re: New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-03 06:50:11 UTC
From: hwingate
Topic: 373 Message: 384

After opening it up and blowing out the dust and checking the voltage selection jumper, I just plugged it in and flipped the switch. It came right up without a problem.

After connecting it to the rig, I put it on the air and all I can say is WOW ! , this has to be the Rolls_Royce of amplifiers. Quiet at full power, fully automatic and a real joy to operate. Big difference from my old Henry 2K (maybe the Sherman Tank of amplifiers)with it's roaring fan and heat.

The amp is probably pretty old, and does not have AlphaMax. When I type VER it responds with UPX-X108G.

Thanks for all the pointers and I am really going to enjoy this amp !!!

Henry

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hwingate" <hwingate@...> wrote:
>
> I just purchased an 87a from an estate, and it has been sitting in
> storage for over 10 years. Any thoughts on bringing it up slowly ? Or
> should I just plug it in and flip the switch ?
>
> Also I got no manual, but the one I downloaded from Alpha mentions the
> AlphaMax software. How do I tell if I have this installed ?
> Thanks
> Henry
>

385. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: New (to me) 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-03 14:23:53 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 373 Message: 385

Yes, my good old Henry 3K has sat silent since I got my 87A. I wish I had two.

Philip

hwingate wrote:
> After connecting it to the rig, I put it on the air and all I can say
> is WOW ! , this has to be the Rolls_Royce of amplifiers. Quiet at
> full power, fully automatic and a real joy to operate. Big difference
> from my old Henry 2K (maybe the Sherman Tank of amplifiers)with it's
> roaring fan and heat.

386. Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-09 01:12:29 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 386 Message: 386

Glenn

Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:

The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or later on TCP/IP)?

Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?

73

Jim
K7EG

387. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-09 02:03:42 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 386 Message: 387

Jim,

I'll forward this to the software folks at Alpha and try to get a
reply posted soon.

Glenn AE0Q

On Sun, Feb 8, 2009 at 6:12 PM, James A Denneny Jr
<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

388. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-09 02:23:58 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 386 Message: 388

Thanks for the quick reply. I look forward to your answer.

73

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 6:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Jim,

I'll forward this to the software folks at Alpha and try to get a
reply posted soon.

Glenn AE0Q

On Sun, Feb 8, 2009 at 6:12 PM, James A Denneny Jr
<57JNDenneny@... <mailto:57JNDenneny%40comcast.net> > wrote:
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... <mailto:ae0q%40arrl.net> --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM,
OOTC, NCVA--

http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

389. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 05:08:08 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 386 Message: 389

Jim, Juergen and the group,

The Alpha Remote software was written by a third party for
Alpha/Power, and Alpha Radio Products does not have the source code
for the program. Changing the way it communicates is not possible.

Our list of things to do includes making a new application for the 87A
remote control. Alpha Radio Products will work on new software when
time and resources permit, but it is not possible at this time.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Sun, Feb 8, 2009 at 6:12 PM, James A Denneny Jr
<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

390. Alpha 87A TX relay will not go over

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 11:19:26 UTC
From: g3sem
Topic: 390 Message: 390

Hi All,

I`m new to the group but I wonder if it`s collective knowledge can help me .
I`ve had an Alpha 87A since 1997, Fantastic Amp with no problems. I have not used it for some 6 months and when I recently powered it up all seems to come up OK BUT it will not go into TX. Shorting the relay in Phono does not power the change-over relays. Everything else seems to be OK, HT etc there are no fault led's lighting.

Anyone had a similar fault before I ship it back?

73 Paul G3SEM

391. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 14:13:03 UTC
From: Jim Denneny
Topic: 386 Message: 391

Thanks Glenn for quick response. We will look forward to it.

73, Jim K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Jim, Juergen and the group,

The Alpha Remote software was written by a third party for
Alpha/Power, and Alpha Radio Products does not have the source code
for the program. Changing the way it communicates is not possible.

Our list of things to do includes making a new application for the 87A
remote control. Alpha Radio Products will work on new software when
time and resources permit, but it is not possible at this time.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Sun, Feb 8, 2009 at 6:12 PM, James A Denneny Jr
<57JNDenneny@... <mailto:57JNDenneny%40comcast.net> > wrote:
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... <mailto:ae0q%40arrl.net> --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

392. Re: Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 14:32:51 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 386 Message: 392

Jim

My Alpha 87 Cat program (description is in the file section of the forum) can read and write via DDE.
I don't know if the Commander from DXLab has a DDE interface and if there is a description of the interface available. I need the frequency information of the TX as an ASCII string.

73 Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

393. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 14:39:25 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 386 Message: 393

I have sent a request to Dave AA6YQ for info. Thanks

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of hb9zs
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:33 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Remote & DXLabSuites Commander

Jim

My Alpha 87 Cat program (description is in the file section of the
forum) can read and write via DDE.
I don't know if the Commander from DXLab has a DDE interface and if
there is a description of the interface available. I need the
frequency information of the TX as an ASCII string.

73 Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "James
A Denneny Jr"
<57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Glenn
>
> Interest has been shown to link startup of Alpha Remote from
> DXLabSuites Commander. Commander can be linked with and start third
> party software providing the software can be addressed via DDE or
> TCP/IP. Here is a query from Juergen DL8LE:
>
> The best solution for the Alpha would be to have Alpha Remote
> interoperate with Commander. Did somebody talk to Glenn or Molly at
> Alpha already if they would be willing to modify their nice tool a
> little bit to allow the communication with Commander via DDE (or
> later on TCP/IP)?
>
> Would it be possible to upgrade Alpha Remote to accomplish this?
>
> 73
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

394. Re: Alpha 87A TX relay will not go over

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-11 18:48:17 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 390 Message: 394

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "g3sem" <G3SEM@...> wrote:
>
> Hi All,
>
> I`m new to the group but I wonder if it`s collective knowledge can
help
> me .
> I`ve had an Alpha 87A since 1997, Fantastic Amp with no problems. I
> have not used it for some 6 months and when I recently powered it up
> all seems to come up OK BUT it will not go into TX. Shorting the
relay
> in Phono does not power the change-over relays. Everything else seems
> to be OK, HT etc there are no fault led's lighting.
>
> Anyone had a similar fault before I ship it back?
>
> 73 Paul G3SEM

Paul,

Being that it has sat for awhile, it could be a connector on the front
panel, the large one that has to be taken on an off. That sure fixed
mine. Directed by Alpha Radio! That connector allows voltage to the TX
relay. May be just a little dirty.

Tomy kf7gc
>

395. ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-13 18:44:04 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 395 Message: 395

Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT program to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 97a now reads my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.

Walter has put this installation version in the files section of this reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are linking through Commander.

Jim
K7EG

396. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-14 10:14:07 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 395 Message: 396

Jim
The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta tests
are finished.
I will inform the forum.

Vy 73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr" <57JNDenneny@...>
wrote:
>
> Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT program
> to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 97a now reads
> my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.
>
> Walter has put this installation version in the files section of this
> reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are linking
> through Commander.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

397. XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 05:39:25 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 397 Message: 397

I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to hook them to the 87A? Any issues I should think about there?

Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.

Rigs: IC-756 Pro ii, IC-7000, and TS-930.

Thanks,
D.

398. Re: [Alpha87a] XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 11:51:20 UTC
From: Bill Winkis
Topic: 397 Message: 398

I think it would take more thasn a couple of cables....

I run three transceivers into my 87A but have a switch panel and a number of in series relays to do the job...Go to my web page and scroll down to see the wiring print and the relays etc...

-Bill
kc4pe@...

http://www.kc4pe.com/amateurshack.htm

----- Original Message -----
From: Darin Divinia
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 12:39 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] XMIT Relay Question

I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to hook them to the 87A? Any issues I should think about there?

Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.

Rigs: IC-756 Pro ii, IC-7000, and TS-930.

Thanks,
D.

399. Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 14:44:10 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 397 Message: 399

Well, the cable I just bough for the rigs supposedly have relays in them. I need to take one apart and check it out.

So, if they were all hooked into a 4 way splitter on the back of the amp - it seems that no damage would be done.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bill Winkis" <kc4pe@...> wrote:
>
> I think it would take more thasn a couple of cables....
>
> I run three transceivers into my 87A but have a switch panel and a number of in series relays to do the job...Go to my web page and scroll down to see the wiring print and the relays etc...
>
> -Bill
> kc4pe@...
>
> http://www.kc4pe.com/amateurshack.htm
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Darin Divinia
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 12:39 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] XMIT Relay Question
>
>
> I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to hook them to the 87A? Any
> issues I should think about there?
>
> Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.
>
> Rigs: IC-756 Pro ii, IC-7000, and TS-930.
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

400. Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 14:53:32 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 397 Message: 400

Nice website.

I looked at your diagram and in-essence it is the same thing just without the relays cascaded. 3 relays with the output tide together and a "y" splitter off the back of the alpha. Actually, my palstar tuner should be here this week so I planning on running it thru that then to the alpha.

Also, that LP1000 meter looks awesome. I might "need" one of those...

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bill Winkis" <kc4pe@...> wrote:
>
> I think it would take more thasn a couple of cables....
>
> I run three transceivers into my 87A but have a switch panel and a number of in series relays to do the job...Go to my web page and scroll down to see the wiring print and the relays etc...
>
> -Bill
> kc4pe@...
>
> http://www.kc4pe.com/amateurshack.htm
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Darin Divinia
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 12:39 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] XMIT Relay Question
>
>
> I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to hook them to the 87A? Any
> issues I should think about there?
>
> Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.
>
> Rigs: IC-756 Pro ii, IC-7000, and TS-930.
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

401. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 15:02:37 UTC
From: Philip Leonard WVØT
Topic: 397 Message: 401

The LP-100 meter IS awesome. Highly recommended.

Philip

Darin Divinia wrote:
> Also, that LP1000 meter looks awesome. I might "need" one of those...

402. Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 15:08:01 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 397 Message: 402

I have the ALPHA METER & highly recommend it. It is the same high
quality as other ALPHA products.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Philip Leonard WVØT <leolists@...> wrote:
>
> The LP-100 meter IS awesome. Highly recommended.
>
> Philip
>
>
> Darin Divinia wrote:
> > Also, that LP1000 meter looks awesome. I might "need" one of those...
>

403. Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-16 16:02:46 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 397 Message: 403

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to hook them to the 87A? Any
> issues I should think about there?
>
> Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.
>
> Rigs: IC-756 Pro ii, IC-7000, and TS-930.
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>
D,

I went to Radio Shack and purchased an audio switch that has four positions and used RCA jack cables. Then when I want to switch radios, I just push the right switch button and its done. Been using this for several years with no problems. I had four radios hooked up.

Tomy kf7gc

404. Anyone need a DAS ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-17 07:00:26 UTC
From: hwingate
Topic: 404 Message: 404

I recently purchased an 87a from an estate, and with it was a DAS Digital Antenna Selector. It appears to be new-in-box. I have the original invoice and it looks like it sold for about $400 in 1999.

My station plans do not include using this unit, so if anyone wants it, I will consider any reasonable offer. If interested, please Email me direct. (mycall at arrl.net)

Henry, K4HAL

405. Re: XMIT Relay Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-17 16:15:20 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 397 Message: 405

Possibly not. Some radios ground the relay connection when powered
off.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tomy" <kf7gc@...> wrote:
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Darin Divinia" <wg5j@> wrote:
> >
> > I have 3 rigs in my station. Can I just use a couple y cables to
> hook them to the 87A? Any
> > issues I should think about there?
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> > Don't want to nuke my alpha or any of the rigs.
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> > Thanks,
> > D.
> >
> D,
>
> I went to Radio Shack and purchased an audio switch that has four
> positions and used RCA jack cables. Then when I want to switch
> radios, I just push the right switch button and its done. Been
using
> this for several years with no problems. I had four radios hooked
up.
>
> Tomy kf7gc
>

406. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-21 10:02:15 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 395 Message: 406

"Alpha 87a CAT" Program
The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
Frequency exchange.

For more details visit:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha

or the File section of the forum

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> Jim
> The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta
tests
> are finished.
> I will inform the forum.
>
> Vy 73 Walter
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
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> > Walter has put this installation version in the files section of
this
> > reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are
linking
> > through Commander.
> >
> > Jim
> > K7EG
> >
>

407. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-21 15:53:34 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 395 Message: 407

Based on Jim's note below, I don't need to run CommServer if I am using DXLab's Commander, right?

The TRX frequency of my FT-2000D is being read from Commander and is displayed in the 87A CAT panel. Is the Frequency Selection segment supposed to be updated as the radio's frequency is changed? Mine does not to do that, so the 87A's frequency isn't changing as I change frequency in the radio.

Different subject:
Since the web site shows a connection to the SteppIR controller, I have a question about that. I am using the SteppIR Y-cable so the SteppIR can follow the radio frequency by listening to the polling from Commander. I actually do have a second serial cable, actually a null modem cable, connected to the lower serial port on the SteppIR box. I did that to try another program, DDUtil, I think, but am not using that cable/port now. Is there a better/different way for the SteppIR to be getting the frequency than eavesdropping on the radio/Commander link?

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

"Alpha 87a CAT" Program
The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the Frequency exchange.

For more details visit:

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Walter, HB9ZS

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linking
> > through Commander.
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> > Jim
> > K7EG

408. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-21 17:12:55 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 408

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Based on Jim's note below, I don't need to run CommServer if I am using DXLab's Commander, right?
CORRECT
The TRX frequency of my FT-2000D is being read from Commander and is displayed in the 87A CAT panel. Is the Frequency Selection segment supposed to be updated as the radio's frequency is changed? Mine does not to do that, so the 87A's frequency isn't changing as I change frequency in the radio.

HI JIM

MY TRANSCEIVER IS AN ELECRAFT K3. I USE LARRY'S (N8LP) LP-BRIDGE FREEWARE TO BRIDGE THE K3 TO SEVERAL APPLICATIONS: COMMANDER, STEPPIR YAGI, STEPPIR BIGGIR VERTICAL,N1MM LOGGER ETC. LP-BRIDGE CREATES VIRTUAL COMM PORTS FOR EACH OF THE ABOVE APPS. I ALSO USE MICROHAM MICROKEYER. FOR INSTANCE, MK CREATES COM 7 FOR K3 INTERFACE WHICH LP-BRIDGE GRABS FOR RADIO INPUT. MK ALSO SETS UP PORTS FOR WINKEY, AND FSK.

THEREFORE, THE ROUTE FROM FROM K3 TO ALPHA 87A IS: K3 OUTPUTS>COM7 (CREATED BY MK). LP-BRIDGE GRABS COM7 AND OUTPUTS TO COMMANDER ON VP COM 10. LP-BRIDGE IS SIMULTANEOUSLY SENDING DATA TO BOTH STEPPIR PRODUCTS OVER SEPARATE VP COM PORTS. COMMANDER GRABS DATA OVER VP COM 10. WALTER'S PROGRAM READS COMMANDER DIRECTLY - NO COM PORT REQUIRED. YOU DO NOT NEED HIS COMMSERVER PROGRAM IF YOU INTERFACE WITH COMMANDER. IF YOU ARE INTERFACING DIRECT TO FT-2000 (BYPASSING COMMANDER) YOU WOULD NEED HIS COMMSERVER.

COMMANDER INTERFACE WORKS FB HERE. I WAS ONE OF HIS TWO BETA TESTERS.

73

JIM K7EG

Different subject:
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YES - SEE ANSWER ABOVE. CONTACT LARRY (larry@...). ASK HIM HOW
HIS LP-BRIDGE APPLICATION WORKS WITH FT-2000.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

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Walter, HB9ZS

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> > K7EG

409. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-21 17:38:55 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 395 Message: 409

Hi Jim,

Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update the Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from Commander but the CAT program seems to only display it. Do I need to reconfigure something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the radio/Commander?

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Denneny
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 11:13
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Based on Jim's note below, I don't need to run CommServer if I am using DXLab's Commander, right?
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YES - SEE ANSWER ABOVE. CONTACT LARRY (larry@...). ASK HIM HOW
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-----Original Message-----

"Alpha 87a CAT" Program
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Walter, HB9ZS

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410. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-21 17:42:47 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 410

Hi Jim

87a must have the AlphaMax option installed. This can be purchased from Alpha. If you have Alpha Max installed, that is all you will need.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 5:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Hi Jim,

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From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Denneny
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 11:13
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

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Walter, HB9ZS

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411. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 07:59:38 UTC
From: dl8le
Topic: 395 Message: 411

No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
changes Commander is doing.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Jim,
>
>
>
> Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update the
> Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from
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> Of James Denneny
> Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 11:13
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER
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> > are finished.
> > I will inform the forum.
> >
> > Vy 73 Walter
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
> "James A Denneny Jr"
> <57JNDenneny@>
> > wrote:
> > >
> > > Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT

> program
> > > to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 87a now
> reads
> > > my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.
> > >
> > > Walter has put this installation version in the files section of
> this
> > > reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are
> linking
> > > through Commander.
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > K7EG
>

412. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 10:42:11 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 395 Message: 412

Thank you Juergen (DL8LE) and Jim (K7EG) for the time you spend to
beta test the program and the update of the description.
Dave (AA6YQ)supported me with the interface imformation of the
DXLab Commander. Thank you very much to all of you.

The revised description is now on my Web:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dl8le" <dl8le@...> wrote:
>
> No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
> no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
> other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
> changes Commander is doing.
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Jim,
> >
> >
> >
> > Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update
the
> > Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from
> Commander
> > but the CAT program seems to only display it. Do I need to
reconfigure
> > something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the
> > radio/Commander?
> >
> >
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >

> >
> > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
On
> Behalf
> > Of James Denneny
> > Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 11:13
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
On
> Behalf
> > Of Jim McDonald
> > Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 3:54 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER
> >
> >
> >
> > Based on Jim's note below, I don't need to run CommServer if I am
using
> > DXLab's Commander, right?
> > CORRECT
> > The TRX frequency of my FT-2000D is being read from Commander and
is
> > displayed in the 87A CAT panel. Is the Frequency Selection segment
> supposed
> > to be updated as the radio's frequency is changed? Mine does not
to do
> > that, so the 87A's frequency isn't changing as I change frequency
in the
> > radio.
> >
> > HI JIM
> >
> >
> > MY TRANSCEIVER IS AN ELECRAFT K3. I USE LARRY'S (N8LP) LP-BRIDGE
> FREEWARE
> > TO BRIDGE THE K3 TO SEVERAL APPLICATIONS: COMMANDER, STEPPIR YAGI,
> STEPPIR
> > BIGGIR VERTICAL,N1MM LOGGER ETC. LP-BRIDGE CREATES VIRTUAL COMM
> PORTS FOR
> > EACH OF THE ABOVE APPS. I ALSO USE MICROHAM MICROKEYER. FOR
> INSTANCE, MK

> > CREATES COM 7 FOR K3 INTERFACE WHICH LP-BRIDGE GRABS FOR RADIO
> INPUT. MK
> > ALSO SETS UP PORTS FOR WINKEY, AND FSK.
> >
> > THEREFORE, THE ROUTE FROM FROM K3 TO ALPHA 87A IS: K3
OUTPUTS>COM7
> (CREATED
> > BY MK). LP-BRIDGE GRABS COM7 AND OUTPUTS TO COMMANDER ON VP COM
10.
> > LP-BRIDGE IS SIMULTANEOUSLY SENDING DATA TO BOTH STEPPIR PRODUCTS
OVER
> > SEPARATE VP COM PORTS. COMMANDER GRABS DATA OVER VP COM 10.
WALTER'S
> > PROGRAM READS COMMANDER DIRECTLY - NO COM PORT REQUIRED. YOU DO
NOT
> NEED HIS
> > COMMSERVER PROGRAM IF YOU INTERFACE WITH COMMANDER. IF YOU ARE
> INTERFACING
> > DIRECT TO FT-2000 (BYPASSING COMMANDER) YOU WOULD NEED HIS
COMMSERVER.
> >
> > COMMANDER INTERFACE WORKS FB HERE. I WAS ONE OF HIS TWO BETA
TESTERS.
> >
> > 73
> >
> > JIM K7EG
> >
> >
> > Different subject:
> > Since the web site shows a connection to the SteppIR controller, I
> have a
> > question about that. I am using the SteppIR Y-cable so the
SteppIR can
> > follow the radio frequency by listening to the polling from
Commander. I
> > actually do have a second serial cable, actually a null modem
cable,
> > connected to the lower serial port on the SteppIR box. I did that
to try
> > another program, DDUtil, I think, but am not using that cable/port
> now. Is
> > there a better/different way for the SteppIR to be getting the
frequency
> > than eavesdropping on the radio/Commander link?
> >
> > YES - SEE ANSWER ABOVE. CONTACT LARRY (larry@). ASK HIM HOW
> > HIS LP-BRIDGE APPLICATION WORKS WITH FT-2000.
> >
> > Jim N7US

> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> >
> > "Alpha 87a CAT" Program
> > The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
> > Frequency exchange.
> >
> > For more details visit:
> >
> > http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha
> >
> > or the File section of the forum
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%
40yahoogroups.com> ,
> > "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta
> > tests
> > > are finished.
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> > > Vy 73 Walter
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> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%
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> > "James A Denneny Jr"
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> > > > Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT
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> > > > Walter has put this installation version in the files section
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> > this
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> > linking
> > > > through Commander.
> > > >
> > > > Jim
> > > > K7EG

> >
>

413. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:01:07 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 395 Message: 413

My amplifier isn't following. How can I tell if I have the updated firmware
in the amplifier?

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
changes Commander is doing.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Jim,
>
>
>
> Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update the
> Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from
Commander
> but the CAT program seems to only display it. Do I need to reconfigure
> something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the
> radio/Commander?
>
>
>
> Jim N7US
>

414. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:14:43 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 414

Walter

I want to thank you very much for providing the interface between your program & Commander It is working great between Commander & my Alpha87a. Dave has put a link on his DXLab Suites website and it has been posted on the DXLab Suites reflector.

Thanks Again

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of hb9zs
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 10:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Thank you Juergen (DL8LE) and Jim (K7EG) for the time you spend to beta test the program and the update of the description.
Dave (AA6YQ)supported me with the interface imformation of the DXLab Commander. Thank you very much to all of you.

The revised description is now on my Web:

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>
> Juergen, DL8LE
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On
> Behalf
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> > Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 11:13
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER
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> > BIGGIR VERTICAL,N1MM LOGGER ETC. LP-BRIDGE CREATES VIRTUAL COMM
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> > JIM K7EG
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> > Different subject:
> > Since the web site shows a connection to the SteppIR controller, I
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SteppIR can
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Commander. I
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cable,
> > connected to the lower serial port on the SteppIR box. I did that
to try
> > another program, DDUtil, I think, but am not using that cable/port
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> > than eavesdropping on the radio/Commander link?
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> > Jim N7US
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> >
> > "Alpha 87a CAT" Program
> > The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
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> > For more details visit:
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<mailto:Alpha87a%
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> > "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
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> > > > > through Commander.
> > > > >
> > > > > Jim
> > > > > K7EG
> >
>

415. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:33:31 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 395 Message: 415

Jim
Open the "Diagnosis" window with the drop down menu.
Type in "ver" and key board "Enter"
The answer of alpha is
"VER. = 1.00-AT"
if AlphaMax and autotune is installed.

Read in the Manual the "Remote Commands

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> My amplifier isn't following. How can I tell if I have the updated
firmware
> in the amplifier?
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> Jim N7US
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
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> No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
> no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
> other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
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reconfigure

> > something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the
> > radio/Commander?
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> > Jim N7US
> >
>

416. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:41:35 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 416

Walter

VER = 1.1.8 Built 2/16/2009

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of hb9zs
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Jim
Open the "Diagnosis" window with the drop down menu.
Type in "ver" and key board "Enter"
The answer of alpha is
"VER. = 1.00-AT"
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Read in the Manual the "Remote Commands

Walter, HB9ZS

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McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
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> > Jim N7US
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>

417. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:45:18 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 417

Walter

Correction - Alpha 87a answers back version is 1.00-AT. The 1.1.8 came from typing "?" and "About" in your program

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Denneny
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Walter

VER = 1.1.8 Built 2/16/2009

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of hb9zs
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

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Read in the Manual the "Remote Commands

Walter, HB9ZS

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> > Jim N7US
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418. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 14:57:22 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 395 Message: 418

Walter & Jim,

I don't know if rebooting my computer did it or not, but it's now working.
Isn't it amazing that we think that rebooting can cure any problem? ;-)
Maybe it was because I hadn't rebooting between running the AlphaRemote
program and Walter's.

The program is easier than pressing the buttons on the amplifier, and I
don't have to wait a couple seconds for the amplifier to wake up and retune
when I send a couple of dits when I QSY.

I do have 1.00-AT. Thanks very much to both of you.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Jim
Open the "Diagnosis" window with the drop down menu.
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if AlphaMax and autotune is installed.

Read in the Manual the "Remote Commands

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> > Jim N7US
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419. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 15:06:00 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 419

Jim - Glad you got it going. It's a nice tool.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Walter & Jim,

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firmware
> in the amplifier?
>
> Jim N7US

>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
>
> No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
> no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
> other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
> changes Commander is doing.
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Jim,
> >
> >
> >
> > Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update
the
> > Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from
> Commander
> > but the CAT program seems to only display it. Do I need to
reconfigure
> > something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the
> > radio/Commander?
> >
> >
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >

420. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 15:37:09 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 420

Jim

The feature I like about Walter's program is the pre-tuning of the amp before keying radio. I am running ARRL CW Contest with N1MM Logger. I have Commander running in background with Walter's program. If I click on a call on the N1MM bandmap, the K3 jumps to the freq. The 87a immediately jumps to the correct segment & is completely pre-tuned before I can touch the cw key - slick.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Denneny
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 3:06 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Jim - Glad you got it going. It's a nice tool.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Walter & Jim,

I don't know if rebooting my computer did it or not, but it's now working. Isn't it amazing that we think that rebooting can cure any problem? ;-) Maybe it was because I hadn't rebooting between running the AlphaRemote program and Walter's.

The program is easier than pressing the buttons on the amplifier, and I don't have to wait a couple seconds for the amplifier to wake up and retune when I send a couple of dits when I QSY.

I do have 1.00-AT. Thanks very much to both of you.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Jim
Open the "Diagnosis" window with the drop down menu.
Type in "ver" and key board "Enter"
The answer of alpha is
"VER. = 1.00-AT"
if AlphaMax and autotune is installed.

Read in the Manual the "Remote Commands

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> My amplifier isn't following. How can I tell if I have the updated
firmware
> in the amplifier?
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
>
> No need to reconfigre anything at Commander. Just make sure there is
> no conflict between the COM port you use for Alpha87a_CAT and any
> other you use at your PC. The amplifier will follow all frequency
> changes Commander is doing.
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Jim,
> >
> >
> >
> > Is the 87A program, and therefore the radio, supposed to update
the
> > Frequency selection? The TRX Freq. gets the frequency fine from
> Commander
> > but the CAT program seems to only display it. Do I need to
reconfigure
> > something to get the amplifier to follow the frequency of the
> > radio/Commander?
> >
> >

> >
> > Jim N7US
> >

421. force a hard fault ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 16:02:37 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 421 Message: 421

Hi all,

Because of local problems with voltage changes I sometimes get a hard fault 24. Well my problem is now I am 1 hard fault away from 6 in a row. I have the LONG LONG code to reset my amp is this happens but it takes some time, im sure their is a way to force a hard fault by holding down a few buttons on power up. Anyone know how to do this ?

Many thanks
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

422. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 17:51:56 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 395 Message: 422

I've been using Walter's program and am very impressed! It would be great if it were to interface with Ham Radio Deluxe as well. ;-)

73,

Joe
WD?M

James Denneny wrote:
>
> Jim
>
> The feature I like about Walter?s program is the pre-tuning of the amp
> before keying radio. I am running ARRL CW Contest with N1MM Logger. I
> have Commander running in background with Walter?s program. If I click
> on a call on the N1MM bandmap, the K3 jumps to the freq. The 87a
> immediately jumps to the correct segment & is completely pre-tuned
> before I can touch the cw key ? slick.
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>

423. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 18:10:19 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 423

Hi Joe

I am sure if you ask Walter he will accommodate you with HRD as long as he can get commands from HRD author. After all, they are both Swiss.

Jim
K7EG

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM
Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 5:52 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

I've been using Walter's program and am very impressed! It would be great if it were to interface with Ham Radio Deluxe as well. ;-)

73,

Joe
WDØM

James Denneny wrote:
>
> Jim
>
> The feature I like about Walter□s program is the pre-tuning of the amp
> before keying radio. I am running ARRL CW Contest with N1MM Logger. I
> have Commander running in background with Walter□s program. If I click
> on a call on the N1MM bandmap, the K3 jumps to the freq. The 87a
> immediately jumps to the correct segment & is completely pre-tuned
> before I can touch the cw key □ slick.
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

424. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-22 18:52:34 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 395 Message: 424

Thanks, Jim - I'll send Walter a note. I hate to impose, but it would be
an excellent feature.

"Anything is possible if you don't have to do it yourself."

73

James Denneny wrote:
>
> Hi Joe
>
> I am sure if you ask Walter he will accommodate you with HRD as long as he
> can get commands from HRD author. After all, they are both Swiss.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>]
> On Behalf
> Of Joe - WD?M
> Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2009 5:52 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER
>
> I've been using Walter's program and am very impressed! It would be
> great if it were to interface with Ham Radio Deluxe as well. ;-)
>
> 73,
>
> Joe
> WD?M
>
> James Denneny wrote:
> >
> > Jim
> >
> > The feature I like about Walter?s program is the pre-tuning of the amp
> > before keying radio. I am running ARRL CW Contest with N1MM Logger. I
> > have Commander running in background with Walter?s program. If I click
> > on a call on the N1MM bandmap, the K3 jumps to the freq. The 87a
> > immediately jumps to the correct segment & is completely pre-tuned
> > before I can touch the cw key ? slick.
> >

> > Jim
> >
> > K7EG
> >
>

425. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 02:26:54 UTC
From: w0ewm
Topic: 395 Message: 425

Walter,
Thanks for your great program and the interface to DXLab Commander. I am using it with my K3. Because I also use DXBase for my logging and K3 CAT control (For going to DX spots and for getting logging data), I am using a program called "Virtual Serial Ports Emulator" http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html to connect the K3 to both DXLab Commander and DXBase. This allows the DXBase logging program to send frequency changes to the K3 and DXLab Commander to retrieve those changes from the K3 and send them - through your program - to the Alpha 87A.

Thanks very much for your great program and efforts!
Thanks & 73,
Merle - W0EWM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
>
> "Alpha 87a CAT" Program
> The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
> Frequency exchange.
>
> For more details visit:
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha
>
> or the File section of the forum
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> > Jim
> > The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta
> tests
> > are finished.
> > I will inform the forum.
> >
> > Vy 73 Walter
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
> <57JNDenneny@>

> > wrote:
> > >
> > > Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT
> program
> > > to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 87a now
> reads
> > > my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.
> > >
> > > Walter has put this installation version in the files section of
> this
> > > reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are
> linking
> > > through Commander.
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > K7EG
> > >
> >
>

426. Re: force a hard fault ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 09:35:57 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 421 Message: 426

Paul

The answer is on:
http://www.k1ttt.net/technote/alpha87a.html

vy 73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> Because of local problems with voltage changes I sometimes get a hard
> fault 24. Well my problem is now I am 1 hard fault away from 6 in a
> row. I have the LONG LONG code to reset my amp is this happens but it
> takes some time, im sure their is a way to force a hard fault by
> holding down a few buttons on power up. Anyone know how to do this ?
>
> Many thanks
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

427. Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 15:31:48 UTC
From: dl8le
Topic: 395 Message: 427

Merle,

Proposal: When you have Commander already installed and Alpha87a_Cat then try DXLab with all it's applications, i.e. not only Commander but all the other applications as well which are
- DXKeeper for logging,
- DXView for giving the DXCC status of a specific call and other information as well as rotating your antenna,
- Pathfinder to direct access to QRZ.com and many more sources for QSL-information,
- Propview for propagation forecast,
- Spotcollector with connection to up to 5 different spot sources (+1 packet cluster) together with SpotSpy, which alerts you for IOTA's, RDA's, DXCC's you need etc. based on your actual logging status and WinWarbler for CW, RTTY, DVK and different PSK-modes.

In particular SpotSpy is an excellent tool which does interoperate with DXLab only at the moment (for more details on SpotSpy go to http://www.dl9ho.de/SpotSpy/SpotSpy.htm

If you don't like the result of your test using DXLab then return to your present set up. But even though personal preferences will be different I believe the time spent was not wasted.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "w0ewm" <hmbone1@...> wrote:
>
> Walter,
> Thanks for your great program and the interface to DXLab Commander. I
> am using it with my K3. Because I also use DXBase for my logging and
> K3 CAT control (For going to DX spots and for getting logging data), I
> am using a program called "Virtual Serial Ports Emulator"
> http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html to connect the K3 to both
> DXLab Commander and DXBase. This allows the DXBase logging program to
> send frequency changes to the K3 and DXLab Commander to retrieve those
> changes from the K3 and send them - through your program - to the
> Alpha 87A.
>

> Thanks very much for your great program and efforts!
> Thanks & 73,
> Merle - W0EWM
>
>
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > "Alpha 87a CAT" Program
> > The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
> > Frequency exchange.
> >
> > For more details visit:
> >
> > http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha
> >
> > or the File section of the forum
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS
> >
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta
> > tests
> > > are finished.
> > > I will inform the forum.
> > >
> > > Vy 73 Walter
> > >
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr"
> > <57JNDenneny@>
> > > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT
> > program
> > > > to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 87a
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> > reads
> > > > my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.
> > > >
> > > > Walter has put this installation version in the files section
of
> > this

> > > > reflector. You do not need his Comm_Server file if you are
> > linking
> > > > through Commander.
> > > >
> > > > Jim
> > > > K7EG
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

428. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 15:43:01 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 395 Message: 428

I agree with Juergen. I moved from Logger32 to the entire DXLabSuites many years ago. It has a learning curve but it is well worth the effort. It is an outstanding package for the DXer. The author Dave AA6YQ provides fast, personal support . Now that Walter has enabled his Alpha87_CAT program to interface with Commander, my total integration package is complete.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dl8le
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:32 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: ALPHA 87A CAT & DXLABSUITES COMMANDER

Merle,

Proposal: When you have Commander already installed and Alpha87a_Cat then try DXLab with all it's applications, i.e. not only Commander but all the other applications as well which are
- DXKeeper for logging,
- DXView for giving the DXCC status of a specific call and other information as well as rotating your antenna,
- Pathfinder to direct access to QRZ.com and many more sources for QSL-information,
- Propview for propagation forecast,
- Spotcollector with connection to up to 5 different spot sources (+1 packet cluster) together with SpotSpy, which alerts you for IOTA's, RDA's, DXCC's you need etc. based on your actual logging status and WinWarbler for CW, RTTY, DVK and different PSK-modes.

In particular SpotSpy is an excellent tool which does interoperate with DXLab only at the moment (for more details on SpotSpy go to http://www.dl9ho.de/SpotSpy/SpotSpy.htm

If you don't like the result of your test using DXLab then return to your present set up. But even though personal preferences will be different I believe the time spent was not wasted.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "w0ewm" <hmbone1@...> wrote:
>

> Walter,
> Thanks for your great program and the interface to DXLab Commander.
I
> am using it with my K3. Because I also use DXBase for my logging and
> K3 CAT control (For going to DX spots and for getting logging
data), I
> am using a program called "Virtual Serial Ports Emulator"
> http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html to connect the K3 to
both
> DXLab Commander and DXBase. This allows the DXBase logging program
to
> send frequency changes to the K3 and DXLab Commander to retrieve
those
> changes from the K3 and send them - through your program - to the
> Alpha 87A.
>
> Thanks very much for your great program and efforts!
> Thanks & 73,
> Merle - W0EWM
>
>
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > "Alpha 87a CAT" Program
> > The Interface to DXLab Commander is now tested and supports the
> > Frequency exchange.
> >
> > For more details visit:
> >
> > http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha
> >
> > or the File section of the forum
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS
> >
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > The program will be uploaded in the next days as soon the beta
> > tests
> > > are finished.
> > > I will inform the forum.

> > >
> > > Vy 73 Walter
> > >
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"James A Denneny Jr"
> > <57JNDenneny@>
> > > wrote:
> > > >
> > > > Special thanks to Walter HB9ZS for modifying his Alpha87a CAT
> > program
> > > > to interface with the DXLabSuites Commander program. My 87a
now
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> > > > my K3 freq/mode data via Commander. It works great.
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> > linking
> > > > through Commander.
> > > >
> > > > Jim
> > > > K7EG
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

429. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 16:22:00 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 421 Message: 429

Hi Walter,

I dont think that linking pins 13 & 14 will do anything?
I was given that advice a few years ago to reset the 87 after a full shut down "it did nothing"
I do have the reset codes for the amp but this takes time to do, What I am after doin is forcing a hard fauld other than fault 24...

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: hb9zs
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 9:35 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Paul

The answer is on:
http://www.k1ttt.net/technote/alpha87a.html

vy 73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> Because of local problems with voltage changes I sometimes get a hard
> fault 24. Well my problem is now I am 1 hard fault away from 6 in a
> row. I have the LONG LONG code to reset my amp is this happens but it
> takes some time, im sure their is a way to force a hard fault by
> holding down a few buttons on power up. Anyone know how to do this ?
>
> Many thanks
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

430. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 16:40:34 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 421 Message: 430

Paul - contact Glenn at Alpha. Keep us posted on results.

GL - Jim K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Young
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 4:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Hi Walter,

I dont think that linking pins 13 & 14 will do anything?

I was given that advice a few years ago to reset the 87 after a full shut down "it did nothing"

I do have the reset codes for the amp but this takes time to do, What I am after doin is

forcing a hard fauld other than fault 24...

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----

From: hb9zs <mailto:hb9zs@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 9:35 AM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Paul

The answer is on:
http://www.k1ttt.net/technote/alpha87a.html

vy 73 Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> Because of local problems with voltage changes I sometimes get a hard
> fault 24. Well my problem is now I am 1 hard fault away from 6 in a

> row. I have the LONG LONG code to reset my amp is this happens but it
> takes some time, im sure their is a way to force a hard fault by
> holding down a few buttons on power up. Anyone know how to do this ?
>
> Many thanks
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

431. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: force a hard fault ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-23 16:43:35 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 421 Message: 431

Hello Paul and the list,

There are 4 things addressed in the previous e-mails regarding the 87A hard faults, I'll try to answer them...

1) If you have a text file or e-mail with the instructions to clear a Fault 99 via the serial port, you can copy the entire string of commands into Windows clipboard with Ctrl-C, then go to a Hyperterm window that is already communicating with the amp and paste them in with Ctrl-V. Put the cursor at the bottom of the list and hit enter, they will all be sent to the amp. The hard and soft fault logs will be cleared.

2) If you have a string of the same hard fault (like a bunch of Fault 24 caused by sporadic line voltage problems), you can break that string by inserting a Fault 22. This is done by unplugging the amp from AC, removing the cover, unplugging the transformer Primary connector, plugging amp in to AC, press ON switch once. It will log a Fault 22, breaking the string of ALL THE SAME hard faults. Unplug the amp, put back together, etc.

3) There is a mod to cure false Fault 24 events due to line voltage spikes. Please e-mail me directly if you need or would like this mod information, it involves adding one capacitor across the pins of an IC on the LVPS. Every 87A built in 1998 or later should already have this part on the LVPS.

4) The information on the k1ttt web site is incomplete! To clear a Fault 99, you turn off the amp and short pins 13 and 14 of the serial connector together and ALSO to the chassis. Turn the amp on, this clears the Fault 99 but NOT the hard fault log, so one more occurrence of the same fault will again put it in F99.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Mon, Feb 23, 2009 at 2:35 AM, hb9zs <hb9zs@...> wrote:
> Paul
>
> The answer is on:
> http://www.k1ttt.net/technote/alpha87a.html
>
> vy 73 Walter
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>>
>> Hi all,

>>
>> Because of local problems with voltage changes I sometimes get a hard
>> fault 24. Well my problem is now I am 1 hard fault away from 6 in a
>> row. I have the LONG LONG code to reset my amp is this happens but it
>> takes some time, im sure their is a way to force a hard fault by
>> holding down a few buttons on power up. Anyone know how to do this ?
>>
>> Many thanks
>> Paul G0HWC
>> http://www.g0hwc.com

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

432. Anyone need a DAS?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-25 06:43:39 UTC
From: hwingate
Topic: 432 Message: 432

I have put an Alpha DAS on Ebay. Here is a chance to pick one up cheap.

http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=130290022284

73, Henry K4HAL

433. Re: Anyone need a DAS?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-02-25 16:14:36 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 432 Message: 433

This is an incredible deal. I believe the list price was $450. If I didn't already have an unused DAS sitting on the shelf, I'd be bidding!

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hwingate" <hwingate@...> wrote:
>
> I have put an Alpha DAS on Ebay. Here is a chance to pick one up cheap.
>
> http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=130290022284
>
> 73, Henry K4HAL
>

434. error 29

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-01 17:40:07 UTC
From: Mark n2qt
Topic: 434 Message: 434

During the 160 SSB contest while cqing the 87A would occaisionally fault with an error 29 (attempt to transmit on invalid frequency). Additionally when operating at the top end of the band (5th band segment) when I would transmit I would hear the amp do a retune and then fault with high swr after tuning to the low end of the band, 1st band segment.

This seemed to occur when using the voice keyer (which happened alot in the afternoon when no one was answering my cq's).

Rig is Yaesu FT1000 MKV field, the 87A has AlphaMax installed.

Is this a common problem, and is there a solution.

Mark n2qt

435. error 29

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-02 17:56:42 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 434 Message: 435

I have never had exactly this kind of failure (no incorrect frequency messages), but have had problem using my DVS-2 Voice Keyer on my FT1000MP in SSB. If you are using this keyer (or possibly another), it is common for the Yaesu Voice Keyer to include some peak energy at the start of the transmission of an audio file. You can see this if, after you have everything tuned properly, when you key the DVK you see a peak energy pulse at the start of the audio transmission which is higher than the level you get after you get past the initializaion period. Not sure I expressed that clearly.

I think the first thing to do is to make sure you have a very clean voice recording that doesn't include iny abnormal noised added at the start (switch operations, microphone touching, etc). I discussed this with one of the techs at Alpha and they were aware of this kind of problem with the Yaesu DVK. I also notice some small effect like this when using the Yaesu FH-1 Keypad for stored CW messages. It is a small amount of peak energy at the start of the first CW character being sent. The only problem it has caused for me is to cause a momentary overdrive which causes it to trip off and give an error message for overdrive.

John Owens - N7TK

436. Ham Radio Deluxe and the Alpha 87a CAT Program by HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-02 22:10:41 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 436 Message: 436

I've recently helped beta test V1.2.0 of a great Alpha 87a control program written by Walter, HB9ZS. His program interfaces with DX Lab Suites, TRX, and now, with V 1.2.0, Ham Radio Deluxe. Walter's program is very well thought out, and provides lots of information on the Alpha 87a as well as convenient control features.

One great feature is that when using HRD (or the other control programs for your rig) the Alpha 87a immediately follows band/frequency changes. No need to send a "dit" to make the 87a change bands/frequencies. For those of us with a SteppIR, it helps reduce the chance of zapping the moving element with high power. (N8LP's SteppIR Tuning relay also takes the worry out of band/frequency excursions when using an amp).

There's a digital "meter panel" that shows all the pertinent data for the Alpha 87a, including grid current, plate voltage and power out. Lastly, there's a fault panel that shows recent hard/soft faults, and their definition. It's handy to see what fault was happened and why.

There's a new HRD Logbook program (not yet in beta but available for download at the HRD website) that ties together the HRD rig control and the HRD Rotator control programs. Combined with those programs, Walter's great Alpha 87a control program makes computerized operating a joy! You'll find Walter's program at:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

Ham Radio Deluxe programs can be found at:

http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/

Thanks to Walter for the great program, dedicated support of Alpha 87a amps, his contributions to amateur radio, and the great operating convenience!

73

--
Joe Hannigan - WD?M
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

437. Re: [Alpha87a] Ham Radio Deluxe and the Alpha 87a CAT Program by HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-03 12:03:54 UTC
From: Bill Winkis
Topic: 436 Message: 437

Yes ... I second the motion!! Walter has done a terrific job in support of Alpha and the 87A. You own a very high class premium product as the 87A and Walter offers the visual programs to give you instance information and performance levels..!!!

-Bill

----- Original Message -----
From: Joe - WDØM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 5:10 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Ham Radio Deluxe and the Alpha 87a CAT Program by HB9ZS

I've recently helped beta test V1.2.0 of a great Alpha 87a control program written by Walter, HB9ZS. His program interfaces with DX Lab Suites, TRX, and now, with V 1.2.0, Ham Radio Deluxe. Walter's program is very well thought out, and provides lots of information on the Alpha 87a as well as convenient control features.

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Ham Radio Deluxe programs can be found at:

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Thanks to Walter for the great program, dedicated support of Alpha 87a amps, his contributions to amateur radio, and the great operating convenience!

73

--
Joe Hannigan - WDØM
Pagosa Springs, CO

http://www.WD0M.com
http://www.pagosarocks.com
http://www.quiltqueen.net

438. Alpha Remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-04 11:37:54 UTC
From: vk5cp
Topic: 438 Message: 438

Is there a way to keep the AlphaRemote Software on top of other windows under Vista?

73 de Chris VK5CP

439. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-04 13:41:17 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 438 Message: 439

> Is there a way to keep the AlphaRemote Software on top of other windows
> under Vista?
>
> 73 de Chris VK5CP
>
>
>
>

Chris i have it running on Vista and it works.
But i have to close the application when the machine goes in sleep mode.
Otherwise it will stay in the process kernel and wont run

Marco Pe2mc
http://www.pe2mc.nl

440. Alpha 87a_CAT & DXLab , HRD, TRX Manager

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-09 08:52:25 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 440 Message: 440

A new release 1.2.1 of the software is available with some minor changes.
After warm up of the linear, band change according to the TRX. Start of the program in standard window size.
Display colours of the pushbuttons after program start etc.

I hope you enjoy the program

Walter, HB9ZS

http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs

441. Re: Alpha Remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-03-15 12:09:53 UTC
From: W9KB - Ken Bills
Topic: 438 Message: 441

Turn the sleep mode off... creates more problems than it try to solve.

KB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Marco van Dijk" <Marco@...> wrote:
>
> > Is there a way to keep the AlphaRemote Software on top of other windows
> > under Vista?
> >
> > 73 de Chris VK5CP
> >
> >
> >
> >
>
> Chris i have it running on Vista and it works.
> But i have to close the application when the machine goes in sleep mode.
> Otherwise it will stay in the process kernel and wont run
>
> Marco Pe2mc
> http://www.pe2mc.nl
>

442. Fault 21 Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-04-05 23:22:51 UTC
From: Bill Axelrod
Topic: 442 Message: 442

All,

Today my Alpha 87a developed a fault problem that I can't restore. I was on 40 meters waiting for someone to finish their CQ (I was not transmitting) when the Alpha faulted. The indications are the first, third, and fifth segment lights started flashing indicating a fault 21 (Excessive tube temp. in transmit (key down); abnormal dissipation and/or insufficient airflow).

The two lights over the "tune" buttons also started flashing. I could not reset the amp.

I turned the amp off, waited about 10 minutes, and turned it back on. The wait and fault lights came on. After the three minute wait, the amp started to shift to the operate mode and turned itself off.

The fan appears to be working and there is noting obstructing the air intake our output.

Any thoughts or ideas?

Thanks and 73... Bill ND9E

443. 87A Upgrade

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-04-30 01:33:51 UTC
From: gvrjohn
Topic: 443 Message: 443

Hi everyone, I'm John, K1BIQ and I just joined your group. I have an older 87A that I want to bring up to spec. I have read all of Paul's, G0HCW, posts on this subject and found it very helpful. I am definately going to install the AlphaMax upgrade. However, I do have a few questions about the other ugrades mentioned by Paul. The first concerns ordering the parts listed by Paul from Alpha. I went to Alpha Store website and found the ordering information for AlphaMax upgrade but I could not find any of the other parts there. Some of the parts I will have no trouble getting elswhere, like the 1N5383 Zener, the 10meg resistor(R5)for the Output T/R board or the 100uf cap for the LVPS and I do plan to make the mods requiring these parts. But the HV diode bridge, DX-X136, the LCX-X105 choke or the CGX-8010-D spark gap arrestor would have to be obtained from Alpha. Also, are all of the upgrades equally important to do? Are some more critical than others? Is it really necessary to remove the four perfectly functioning HVPS rectifier diodes and replace them with the DRX-X136 mono-block diode bridge rectifier or was this change only a manufacturing cost based one by Alpha? Also how important are the LCX-X105 safety choke and CGX-8010-D spark gap mods? Will my 87A (or some person!) be at risk if they are not done? If Paul or anyone else in the group can help with these questions I would look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,
John K1BIQ
gvrjohn@...

444. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Upgrade

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-04-30 13:09:05 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 443 Message: 444

HI John,

I got my 87a few weeks ago and before I bring it home I call Alpha about possible updates and AlphaMax. My 87a was produced in 1993 and Molly suggested me to do not touch it until it works as it should, so I just ordered the AlphaMax update and some spare pin diodes.

This weekend RTTY contest was the first real test. It "produced" 1000+ qso`s at 1500W output without any single problem, so I would keep it as is for now.

I hope it helps.

73s Ted S52X

2009/4/30 gvrjohn <gvrjohn@...>

>
>
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> 87A that I want to bring up to spec. I have read all of Paul's, G0HCW, posts
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> there. Some of the parts I will have no trouble getting elswhere, like the
> 1N5383 Zener, the 10meg resistor(R5)for the Output T/R board or the 100uf
> cap for the LVPS and I do plan to make the mods requiring these parts. But
> the HV diode bridge, DX-X136, the LCX-X105 choke or the CGX-8010-D spark gap
> arrestor would have to be obtained from Alpha. Also, are all of the upgrades
> equally important to do? Are some more critical than others? Is it really
> necessary to remove the four perfectly functioning HVPS rectifier diodes and
> replace them with the DRX-X136 mono-block diode bridge rectifier or was this
> change only a manufacturing cost based one by Alpha? Also how important are
> the LCX-X105 safety choke and CGX-8010-D spark gap mods? Will my 87A (or
> some person!) be at risk if they are not done? If Paul or anyone else in the
> group can help with these questions I would look forward to hearing from
> you.
>
> Thanks,
> John K1BIQ
> gvrjohn@gmail.com <gvrjohn%40gmail.com>
>
>
>

>

--
Tadej Arcon

445. Re: 87A Upgrade

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 12:39:00 UTC
From: gvrjohn
Topic: 443 Message: 445

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> HI John,
>
> I got my 87a few weeks ago and before I bring it home I call Alpha about
> possible updates and AlphaMax. My 87a was produced in 1993 and Molly
> suggested me to do not touch it until it works as it should, so I just
> ordered the AlphaMax update and some spare pin diodes.
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> at 1500W output without any single problem, so I would keep it as is for
> now.
>
>
> I hope it helps.
>
> 73s Ted S52X
>
>
> 2009/4/30 gvrjohn <gvrjohn@...>
>
> >
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> > you.
> >
> > Thanks,

> > John K1BIQ
> > gvrjohn@... <gvrjohn%40gmail.com>
> >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon
>
Hello Ted,
Thanks for the advice. I think I will do as you did and only make the modifications pertaining to any problems that may occur as I use the amplifier.

73,
John K1BIQ

446. Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 15:05:11 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 446 Message: 446

Hello to everyone in the group!

As I have been a fan of an 87A for a while now. Please keep me in mind, if you know of an 87A that will go up for sale in the San Francisco Bay Area. I would like to personally like to see and operate the amp before dropping the amount of money required to own a 87A.

If you happen to live away from the SF bay area and have one up for sale and willing to ship to Alpha for their evaluation and have Alpha be the middle man, I am also OK with that.

There is no rush to purchase the amp as the economy is still in shambles, the solar flux index numbers are the lowest in recent history. I just want to put this out to the community, as everyone knows the history of their amp and probably of the potential amp for sale.

73

Robert

447. Re: [Alpha87a] Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 16:24:18 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 446 Message: 447

Hi Robert,

it is not very difficult to find one in US. This weekend were 2 of them on ebay...

73s Ted S52X

2009/5/4 Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...>

>
>
> Hello to everyone in the group!
>
> As I have been a fan of an 87A for a while now. Please keep me in mind, if
> you know of an 87A that will go up for sale in the San Francisco Bay Area. I
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> 73
>
> Robert
>
>
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

448. Re: Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 16:30:45 UTC
From: Tomy
Topic: 446 Message: 448

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Robert,
>
> it is not very difficult to find one in US. This weekend were 2 of them on
> ebay...
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> 73s Ted S52X
>
> 2009/5/4 Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...>
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> >
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> > 73
> >
> > Robert
> >
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>
> --
> Tadej Arcon
>
Robert,

I have one, completely updated by Alpha and has a pair of brand new tubes. Works great! Asking $6000.

Tomy kf7gc
kf7gc@arrl.net

449. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Upgrade

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 16:31:14 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 443 Message: 449

Hi John,

I have added this article about FAULT 1 in the reflector menu...

http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html

73s Ted S52X

2009/5/4 gvrjohn <gvrjohn@...>

>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, Tadej Arcon
> <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
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> > I hope it helps.
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> > 2009/4/30 gvrjohn <gvrjohn@...>
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> > > Hi everyone, I'm John, K1BIQ and I just joined your group. I have an
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> > > Thanks,
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> > > gvrjohn@... <gvrjohn%40gmail.com>
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> > Tadej Arcon
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> Hello Ted,
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> modifications pertaining to any problems that may occur as I use the
> amplifier.
>
> 73,
> John K1BIQ

>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

450. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 17:47:30 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 446 Message: 450

Hello,

Thank you for the reply. I try to avoid ebay as much as possible. I am looking to deal with a local ham if at all possible. There have been scams on the alpha 87a's lately. Too much money not to see it up close and personal, test it and if I like what I see, pay the big $$$ and carry it home to my shack.

There are too many scams on ebay to put down 5K for an amp.

If you do hear of one from someone you know and especially if they happen to be in the bay area, let me know.

73

Robert

From: Tomy <kf7gc@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, May 4, 2009 9:30:45 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Still in search of an 87A

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@ ...> wrote:
>
> Hi Robert,
>
> it is not very difficult to find one in US. This weekend were 2 of them on
> ebay...
>
> 73s Ted S52X
>
> 2009/5/4 Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@ ...>
>
> >
> >
> > Hello to everyone in the group!
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> > As I have been a fan of an 87A for a while now. Please keep me in mind, if
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> > There is no rush to purchase the amp as the economy is still in shambles,

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> > 73
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> > Robert
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> Tadej Arcon
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Robert,

I have one, completely updated by Alpha and has a pair of brand new tubes. Works great!
Asking $6000.

Tomy kf7gc
kf7gc@...

451. Re: Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-04 19:26:26 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 446 Message: 451

You should get on Alpha's list for when they have trade in amps, etc.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...> wrote:
>
> Hello to everyone in the group!
>
> As I have been a fan of an 87A for a while now. Please keep me in mind, if you know of an 87A that will go up for sale in the San Francisco Bay Area. I would like to personally like to see and operate the amp before dropping the amount of money required to own a 87A.
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>
> 73
>
> Robert
>

452. FIX FOR ALPHA 87A BANDSWITCH FAULT

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-07 10:14:10 UTC
From: s52xray
Topic: 452 Message: 452

Hi Group,

I have added an article about fixing the 87a bandswitch position, by K6FG. You can find it in Files/Links menu.

http://www.scdxc.org/newslist/newsletter_20030800.pdf (see page 10)

73s Ted S52X

453. Startup Fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-31 15:16:14 UTC
From: James A Denneny Jr
Topic: 453 Message: 453

My 87A displayed the red FAULT led for the first time when I powered up. The first cycle immediately shut amp down. The second cycle showed the fault led again for about 15 seconds and turned off. Amp proceeded to power up ok. During the fault period, the row of leds scrolled like it was trying to ID the problem but never settled on a specific fault code.

I don't know if this was random or a precursor of a real problem. Anyone ever experience this?

Jim
K7EG

454. Re: Startup Fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-31 15:35:27 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 453 Message: 454

Hi Jim,

the scrolling bandswitch LED's is telling you
that you have a "Control system fault - Bandswitch not moving"
I have only had this fault 1 time and i cleaned the contacts
on my band switch wafer and after turn on i kept pressing
1.8 then 28 to cycle the bandswitch a few times.

Hope this helps
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James A Denneny Jr" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A displayed the red FAULT led for the first time when I powered up. The first cycle immediately shut amp down. The second cycle showed the fault led again for about 15 seconds and turned off. Amp proceeded to power up ok. During the fault period, the row of leds scrolled like it was trying to ID the problem but never settled on a specific fault code.
>
> I don't know if this was random or a precursor of a real problem. Anyone ever experience this?
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

455. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Startup Fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-05-31 17:10:25 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 453 Message: 455

Thanks for the tip Paul. I cycled power several more times and fault did not repeat. I will save this comment and if it repeats I will clean bandswitch contacts.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Young
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2009 8:35 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Startup Fault

Hi Jim,

the scrolling bandswitch LED's is telling you
that you have a "Control system fault - Bandswitch not moving"
I have only had this fault 1 time and i cleaned the contacts
on my band switch wafer and after turn on i kept pressing
1.8 then 28 to cycle the bandswitch a few times.

Hope this helps
Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "James A Denneny Jr" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A displayed the red FAULT led for the first time when I powered up. The first cycle immediately shut amp down. The second cycle showed the fault led again for about 15 seconds and turned off. Amp proceeded to power up ok. During the fault period, the row of leds scrolled like it was trying to ID the problem but never settled on a specific fault code.
>
> I don't know if this was random or a precursor of a real problem. Anyone ever experience this?
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

456. Startup Fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-01 17:06:35 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 453 Message: 456

Jim:

This happened to me only once and did not repeat. Same failure symptoms. It happened at the time my external blower motor was showing symptoms of failure and I attributed the startup failure to a possible breakdown in the blower motor. I replaced the blower motor and the failure did not re-occur.

John Owens - N7TK

457. RE: [Alpha87a] Startup Fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-01 21:05:41 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 453 Message: 457

Thanks John. If blower fails, I will contact you for the source. The other reply says a dirty bandswitch can give similar symptom. So far, this has not repeated but I am on guard.

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of jcowens1@...
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 10:07 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Startup Fault

Jim:

This happened to me only once and did not repeat. Same failure symptoms. It happened at the time my external blower motor was showing symptoms of failure and I attributed the startup failure to a possible breakdown in the blower motor. I replaced the blower motor and the failure did not re-occur.

John Owens - N7TK

458. How many fans are inside the 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-05 14:21:33 UTC
From: Ken
Topic: 458 Message: 458

Folks,
I recently purchased a good 87a and been enjoying the amp. Everything works perfect. Since I have not owned an alpha before, I have a question regarding the fan and other noise coming from thia amp.

1. I hear a blower type noise and feel air coming out of the vents in the top.
2. I also hear a bearing type (bearable but noticable) squeaky noise around below the tubes.
3. then I notice a high pitch or almost like a 50-60hz type noise coming from around somewhere. I have noticed a similar type of noise in my cable-DVR box where a fan is running almost constantly. Very similar type of noise.

I did read about the hum on the transformer in the other threads, it doesnt sound like a hum to me. If the amp puts out multiple fan type noise, then I wouldnt bother. But i am able to distinguish 3 different noises. (all bearable and almost none with my headset on)

Just curious, to know if I need to be replacing any fans etc and you hear the multiple fan noises.

Regards,
Ken

459. Re: Ham Radio Deluxe and the Alpha 87a CAT Program by HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-05 15:44:28 UTC
From: Ken
Topic: 436 Message: 459

I have been using the DXLab suite for my logs etc. I downloaded hb9zs software for the alpha 87a yesterday and it works like a charm. As and when I change bands or freq in my radio, the alpha follows it around and switches bands and moves around its segments.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bill Winkis" <kc4pe@...> wrote:
>
> Yes ... I second the motion!! Walter has done a terrific job in support of Alpha and the 87A. You own a very high class premium product as the 87A and Walter offers the visual programs to give you instance information and performance levels..!!!
>
> -Bill
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Joe - WDØM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Monday, March 02, 2009 5:10 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Ham Radio Deluxe and the Alpha 87a CAT Program by HB9ZS
>
>
> I've recently helped beta test V1.2.0 of a great Alpha 87a control
> program written by Walter, HB9ZS. His program interfaces with DX Lab
> Suites, TRX, and now, with V 1.2.0, Ham Radio Deluxe. Walter's program
> is very well thought out, and provides lots of information on the Alpha
> 87a as well as convenient control features.
>
> One great feature is that when using HRD (or the other control programs
> for your rig) the Alpha 87a immediately follows band/frequency changes.
> No need to send a "dit" to make the 87a change bands/frequencies. For
> those of us with a SteppIR, it helps reduce the chance of zapping the
> moving element with high power. (N8LP's SteppIR Tuning relay also takes
> the worry out of band/frequency excursions when using an amp).
>
> There's a digital "meter panel" that shows all the pertinent data for
> the Alpha 87a, including grid current, plate voltage and power out.
> Lastly, there's a fault panel that shows recent hard/soft faults, and
> their definition. It's handy to see what fault was happened and why.
>
> There's a new HRD Logbook program (not yet in beta but available for
> download at the HRD website) that ties together the HRD rig control and
> the HRD Rotator control programs. Combined with those programs,
> Walter's great Alpha 87a control program makes computerized operating a
> joy! You'll find Walter's program at:
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/
>

> Ham Radio Deluxe programs can be found at:
>
> http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/
>
> Thanks to Walter for the great program, dedicated support of Alpha 87a
> amps, his contributions to amateur radio, and the great operating
> convenience!
>
> 73
>
> --
> Joe Hannigan - WDØM
> Pagosa Springs, CO
>
> http://www.WD0M.com
> http://www.pagosarocks.com
> http://www.quiltqueen.net
>

460. Re: [Alpha87a] How many fans are inside the 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-05 17:21:59 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 458 Message: 460

Hi Ken,

there is only one internal fan in a 87a, there is a option to have a external fan. The internal fan is not cheap and a pain to change, I changed mine last year.

The reason i needed to change mine was it sounded like it was trying to escape !!! more of a ratle.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Ken
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 3:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] How many fans are inside the 87a

Folks,
I recently purchased a good 87a and been enjoying the amp. Everything works perfect. Since I have not owned an alpha before, I have a question regarding the fan and other noise coming from thia amp.

1. I hear a blower type noise and feel air coming out of the vents in the top.
2. I also hear a bearing type (bearable but noticable) squeaky noise around below the tubes.
3. then I notice a high pitch or almost like a 50-60hz type noise coming from around somewhere. I have noticed a similar type of noise in my cable-DVR box where a fan is running almost constantly. Very similar type of noise.

I did read about the hum on the transformer in the other threads, it doesnt sound like a hum to me. If the amp puts out multiple fan type noise, then I wouldnt bother. But i am able to distinguish 3 different noises. (all bearable and almost none with my headset on)

Just curious, to know if I need to be replacing any fans etc and you hear the multiple fan noises.

Regards,
Ken

461. This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 13:31:38 UTC
From: kc4pe
Topic: 461 Message: 461

/Alpha 87A Serial Number....87321091, been performing like a champ since day one!!

However this AM turned the unit on and got three SEGMENT lights, # 1-3-5 ...also the FAULT lamp was lite...
After 20 seconds the SEGMENT & FAULT lights went out....

Then after the unit went into STANDBY it idled for about 3 minutes then shut down completely....

Now, a few weeks ago I noiced the mein cooling fam was noisey and grunting then the noise disappeared.
I wounder if the fan QUIT completely and excessive heat during warm up is the cause..?

Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over the counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the picture.....???

Thanks,

-Bill
kc4pe@...

462. Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 14:05:09 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 461 Message: 462

Hi Bill,

well your fault is "Excessive tube temp, abnormal dissipation and or insufficient air flow"

If you need a nerw blower, you can only get them from Alpha...
can you feel the air coming from the top of amp ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: kc4pe
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 2:31 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

/Alpha 87A Serial Number....87321091, been performing like a champ since day one!!

However this AM turned the unit on and got three SEGMENT lights, # 1-3-5 ...also the FAULT lamp was lite...
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Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over the counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the picture.....???

Thanks,

-Bill
kc4pe@...

463. Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 14:18:42 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 461 Message: 463

Oh Bill I forgot to add

if you are getting that fault with the amp in RX, it is a HARD FAULT
and if you get 6 of them in a row the amp will lock out and will need
to be reset. The only way you will be able to reset the amp is with
a computer connected to the amp and you will need the info to do
this from Alpha.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: kc4pe
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 2:31 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

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However this AM turned the unit on and got three SEGMENT lights, # 1-3-5 ...also the FAULT lamp was lite...
After 20 seconds the SEGMENT & FAULT lights went out....

Then after the unit went into STANDBY it idled for about 3 minutes then shut down completely....

Now, a few weeks ago I noiced the mein cooling fam was noisey and grunting then the noise disappeared.
I wounder if the fan QUIT completely and excessive heat during warm up is the cause..?

Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over the counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the picture.....???

Thanks,

-Bill
kc4pe@...

464. Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 14:26:07 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 461 Message: 464

Having had the same problem a few years ago, I bought the blower from Alpha, and installed it myself. If you take your time, it isn't an extremely difficult job. Use a digital camera, if you have one, to document the steps along the way so you can "reverse" the installation procedures when you've installed the blower.

I documented the procedure and helped Alpha by updating their instructions with illustrations. You'll find them at:

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp

Replacement Blower instructions <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/pdfs/Alpha87aBlower.zip> for ALPHA 87A (zipped pdf file)

Hope that helps...

73,

Joe
WD?M

Paul Young wrote:
>
>
> Oh Bill I forgot to add
>
> if you are getting that fault with the amp in RX, it is a HARD FAULT
> and if you get 6 of them in a row the amp will lock out and will need
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> this from Alpha.
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* kc4pe <mailto:kc4pe@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> *Sent:* Sunday, June 07, 2009 2:31 PM
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] This Is new....??
>
> /Alpha 87A Serial Number....87321091, been performing like a champ
> since day one!!
>

> However this AM turned the unit on and got three SEGMENT lights, #
> 1-3-5 ...also the FAULT lamp was lite...
> After 20 seconds the SEGMENT & FAULT lights went out....
>
> Then after the unit went into STANDBY it idled for about 3 minutes
> then shut down completely....
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> Now, a few weeks ago I noiced the mein cooling fam was noisey and
> grunting then the noise disappeared.
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> warm up is the cause..?
>
> Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over the
> counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the
> picture.....???
>
> Thanks,
>
> -Bill
> kc4pe@... <mailto:kc4pe%40bellsouith.net>
>
>

465. RE: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 15:11:32 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 461 Message: 465

Joe

You are very thorough in documenting procedures whether it is your 4L SteppIR yagi, 30/40L overhead guys, or 87A blower replacement. We all appreciate your sharing. Hope I never have to replace the blower however. Mine is still very quiet.

I did get a one time fault display of scrolling leds a couple of weeks ago which I am told is either a bandswitch needing cleaning or as a local friend told me ☐ could be a blower failure precursor.

Thanks for the support.

73

Jim

K7EG
Auburn WA

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 7:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@...m
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Having had the same problem a few years ago, I bought the blower from Alpha, and installed it myself. If you take your time, it isn't an extremely difficult job. Use a digital camera, if you have one, to document the steps along the way so you can "reverse" the installation procedures when you've installed the blower.

I documented the procedure and helped Alpha by updating their instructions with illustrations. You'll find them at:

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp

Replacement <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/pdfs/Alpha87aBlower.zip>
Blower instructions for ALPHA 87A (zipped pdf file)

Hope that helps...

73,

Joe
WDØM

Paul Young wrote:

Oh Bill I forgot to add

if you are getting that fault with the amp in RX, it is a HARD FAULT

and if you get 6 of them in a row the amp will lock out and will need

to be reset. The only way you will be able to reset the amp is with

a computer connected to the amp and you will need the info to do

this from Alpha.

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----

From: kc4pe <mailto:kc4pe@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 2:31 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

/Alpha 87A Serial Number....87321091, been performing like a champ since day one!!

However this AM turned the unit on and got three SEGMENT lights, # 1-3-5
...also the FAULT lamp was lite...
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Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over the counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the picture.....???

Thanks,

-Bill
kc4pe@... <mailto:kc4pe%40bellsouith.net>

466. Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 15:17:28 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 461 Message: 466

Hi Jim,

You're very kind - and I'm happy to help! If it saves others the frustration of trying to figure it out, I've achieved my goal.....

Cheers and 73,

Joe
WD?M

James Denneny wrote:
>
>
> Joe
>
>
>
> You are very thorough in documenting procedures whether it is your 4L
> SteppIR yagi, 30/40L overhead guys, or 87A blower replacement. We all
> appreciate your sharing. Hope I never have to replace the blower
> however. Mine is still very quiet.
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> I did get a one time fault display of scrolling leds a couple of weeks
> ago which I am told is either a bandswitch needing cleaning or as a
> local friend told me -- could be a blower failure precursor.
>
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> Thanks for the support.
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>
> 73
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
> Auburn WA
>
>
>
>

>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Joe - WD?M
> *Sent:* Sunday, June 07, 2009 7:26 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] This Is new....??
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Having had the same problem a few years ago, I bought the blower from
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> extremely difficult job. Use a digital camera, if you have one, to
> document the steps along the way so you can "reverse" the installation
> procedures when you've installed the blower.
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> I documented the procedure and helped Alpha by updating their
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>
> Replacement Blower instructions
> <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/pdfs/Alpha87aBlower.zip> for ALPHA
> 87A (zipped pdf file)
>
> Hope that helps...
>
> 73,
>
> Joe
> WD?M
>
>
>
> Paul Young wrote:
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> Paul G0HWC
>
> http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
>
>
>
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
>
> *From:* kc4pe <mailto:kc4pe@...>
>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
>
> *Sent:* Sunday, June 07, 2009 2:31 PM
>
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] This Is new....??
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>
> /Alpha 87A Serial Number....87321091, been performing like a
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> warm up is the cause..?
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> Is changing the main fan a problem...???? Is the fan a over
> the counter purchase or do I need to bring Miss Molly into the
> picture.....???
>
> Thanks,
>
> -Bill
> kc4pe@... <mailto:kc4pe%40bellsouith.net>
>

467. Is This the ????:

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 16:02:02 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 467 Message: 467

I have only replaced the optional external blower, but I believe the 2 blowers are identical. I bought mine from Newark Electronics. It was a direct replacement of the EBMPAPST 4580Z which is a 220VAC, 68 CFM blower that very easily replaced the noisy and failing previous blower. It is unbelievably quiet now. The c ost to me was around $45 and had a Newark SKU of 86K9857.

I remember that there is a simple, straightforward way of resetting the microprocessor (some switch combination at power turn-on) but I couldn't find it in a review of my manual and notes. Call Alpha. I am sure they will provide the procedure for doing this. Good Luck.

John Owens - N7TK

468. Re: [Alpha87a] Is This the ????:

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-07 16:16:05 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 467 Message: 468

The internal blower is a custom job Squirrel-cage and you can only get it from Alpha.
the cost is $150 + postage. Code: AHX-X518-A

The reset is a bunch of code you need to send to the amp via the com
port and not just a link or switches.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

----- Original Message -----
From: jcowens1@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 5:02 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Is This the ????:

I have only replaced the optional external blower, but I believe the 2 blowers are identical. I bought mine from Newark Electronics. It was a direct replacement of the EBMPAPST 4580Z which is a 220VAC, 68 CFM blower that very easily replaced the noisy and failing previous blower. It is unbelievably quiet now. The cost to me was around $45 and had a Newark SKU of 86K9857.

I remember that there is a simple, straightforward way of resetting the microprocessor (some switch combination at power turn-on) but I couldn't find it in a review of my manual and notes. Call Alpha. I am sure they will provide the procedure for doing this. Good Luck.

John Owens - N7TK

469. Bird Cage Replacement 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 03:46:33 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 469 Message: 469

I should do this off line with someone. Let me know if you are willing to help.
I am down to the point where the old blower is supposed to come out. I am having trouble getting it to move. It acts like another screw somewhere. What comes out? just the blower and the 4x4 plate like the replacement has, or more?

Private mail and we can keep from cluttering.

Ken K5WK

470. Bird Cage blower replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 13:36:33 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 470 Message: 470

So far no one has responded off line, so let me try my questions here.

I am having trouble removing the bird cage.

Step 2.6 diagram shows two screws in diagram with arrows that I have not removed. I assume these stay in place?

Step 2.8 of "Remove Tube deck" Says I am to lift tube deck up and remove metal plate around blower housing. Which metal plate. In fact I have removed nothing here. Can you identify it in one of the diagrams?

Ken K5WK

471. Bird Cage replacement 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 13:51:32 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 471 Message: 471

An addendum to my previous post.
If the plate to be removed is the one tru which the air moves to cool the tubes (square hole in it), then there are two more screws on the back panel that need to be removed.

472. 87a Bird Cage replacement - I'm OK Now

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 14:05:22 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 472 Message: 472

Once I removed the two screws, all fell into place. The blower just slid out.

And thanks to those who responded offline.

ken K5WK

473. Blower Assy replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 20:10:26 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 473 Message: 473

Instructions are good. I had a bit of trouble identifying how to get the metal plate out, but two rear screws were all that still held it in place.

I had been putting the job off for a while, and I would not call it a "piece of cake" as getting some of the screws back in place requires a little immagination.

When the amp is scattered across the room you will ask yourself "what have I done?" And there is the anxiety of plugging it in and seeing if any error lights occur. None here.

It is certainly a task anyone can accomplish if you do not rush.

15 years and this baby runs as good as new.

Ken K5WK

474. Re: [Alpha87a] Blower Assy replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-09 23:33:02 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 473 Message: 474

HI Ken,

maybe this link may helps a bit with the screws:

http://www.hamradiomarket.com/Articles/Alpha87A.htm

73s Ted S52X

2009/6/9 barbiekenw <kinkykinkyken-one@...>

>
>
> Instructions are good. I had a bit of trouble identifying how to get the
> metal plate out, but two rear screws were all that still held it in place.
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> "piece of cake" as getting some of the screws back in place requires a
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> I done?" And there is the anxiety of plugging it in and seeing if any error
> lights occur. None here.
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> It is certainly a task anyone can accomplish if you do not rush.
>
> 15 years and this baby runs as good as new.
>
> Ken K5WK
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

475. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-10 20:12:23 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 10 Message: 475

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha 87a.pdf
Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
Description : Alpha 87a Terminal Program with Soft-/ Hard Fault Reset

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a.pdf

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

hb9zs <hb9zs@...>

476. Re: Still in search of an 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-06-28 02:11:56 UTC
From: vk5cp
Topic: 446 Message: 476

Hi Robert,

Have you put your name down on the Alpha 'wish list' at the Alpha web site?

That's how I found mine - it was factory refurbed and brought up to date, and securely shipped downunder. Works perfectly.

The price (other than the freight) is comparable to s/h 87A's and with no risk of problems.

73 de Chris VK5CP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Robert Smith <blackbelt1karate@...> wrote:
>
> Hello to everyone in the group!
>
> As I have been a fan of an 87A for a while now. Please keep me in mind, if you know of an 87A that will go up for sale in the San Francisco Bay Area. I would like to personally like to see and operate the amp before dropping the amount of money required to own a 87A.
>
> If you happen to live away from the SF bay area and have one up for sale and willing to ship to Alpha for their evaluation and have Alpha be the middle man, I am also OK with that.
>
> There is no rush to purchase the amp as the economy is still in shambles, the solar flux index numbers are the lowest in recent history. I just want to put this out to the community, as everyone knows the history of their amp and probably of the potential amp for sale.
>
> 73
>
> Robert
>

477. Re: [Alpha87a] Is This the ????:

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-08 09:40:10 UTC
From: Hans Krahenbuhl
Topic: 467 Message: 477

From: "jcowens1@..." <jcowens1@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2009 6:02:02 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Is This the ????:

I have only replaced the optional external blower, but I believe the 2 blowers are identical. I bought mine from Newark Electronics. It was a direct replacement of the EBMPAPST 4580Z which is a 220VAC, 68 CFM blower that very easily replaced the noisy and failing previous blower. It is unbelievably quiet now. The cost to me was around $45 and had a Newark SKU of 86K9857.

I remember that there is a simple, straightforward way of resetting the microprocessor (some switch combination at power turn-on) but I couldn't find it in a review of my manual and notes. Call Alpha. I am sure they will provide the procedure for doing this. Good Luck.

John Owens - N7TK

478. USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-22 13:09:17 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 478 Message: 478

There was talk of having a USB adapter available for Dayton this year. Did that ever happen? I just got my flex 3000 and I am on a mission to integrate everything including my 87A.

73,
D.

479. Re: [Alpha87a] USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-22 13:18:40 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 478 Message: 479

Hello Darin,

Yes, we had a bunch of the USB/serial adapters at Dayton. We've tested them all and also jumpered the necessary pins of the 25-pin connector end to set the 87A serial baudrate to 9600 (instead of the default 4800). They will be on the Alpha Store on the web site later today.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

On Wed, Jul 22, 2009 at 7:09 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@...> wrote:

>
>
> There was talk of having a USB adapter available for Dayton this year. Did
> that ever happen? I just got my flex 3000 and I am on a mission to integrate
> everything including my 87A.
>
> 73,
> D.
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

480. 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-23 14:47:50 UTC
From: Harry Williams
Topic: 480 Message: 480

I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice peaks kick it up to about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any help would be appreciated.

73,

Harry

W0LS

481. RE: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-23 15:10:48 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 480 Message: 481

Harry,

Upon reading about your symptoms I have a couple questions. Do you ever operate SSB or CW? If so, do you get the same 24 fault with either of those modes?

Secondly: Are you using the amp in the high voltage or low voltage switch position?

If you are using the low voltage position, try high and see if that changes your luck. I'm sure you've already tried that one though.

Best 73,

Jim

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Harry Williams
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:48 AM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice peaks kick it up to about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know

what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any help would be appreciated.

73,
Harry
W0LS

482. RE: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-23 16:23:04 UTC
From: Harry Williams
Topic: 480 Message: 482

Hi Jim,

Yes, I do operate some SSB and cw and I have seen the faults occasionally when operating SSB but for sure they are most prevelent on AM. I have also seen the amp power off when idle on a few occasions as well as fault during the power up sequence. I have attempted to monitor the voltage levels using hyper terminal interface but have not been able to determine much other than the voltages look normal. I have used two sets of tubes and I get the same issue. Sometimes I have gone 2 months without seeing the problem and then it all of a sudden starts up again. What really perplexing is the 2 amps have shown the same behavior. I keep thinking about the power transformer since its the same transformer but I am not sure how it could cause this situation. Oh, your second question, I always use the amp with the B+ in the high position.

Harry

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: jim@...
Date: Thu, 23 Jul 2009 10:10:48 -0500
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

Harry,

Upon reading about your symptoms I have a couple questions. Do you ever operate SSB or CW? If so, do you get the same 24 fault with either of those modes?

Secondly: Are you using the amp in the high voltage or low voltage switch position?

If you are using the low voltage position, try high and see if that changes your luck. I'm sure you've already tried that one though.

Best 73,

Jim
KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Harry Williams
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:48 AM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice peaks kick it up to

about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any help would be appreciated.

73,
Harry
W0LS

483. Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-24 03:47:02 UTC
From: Darin Divinia
Topic: 478 Message: 483

Thanks - I will order one tonight.

73,
D.

Darin Divinia
wg5j@...

484. Re: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-24 05:28:30 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 480 Message: 484

Hi Harry,

I had the same problem with fault 24 and also re tapped to 220v but still
had the problem but not as often.
But since a recent shack re build and re wire all my sockets on a new ring
back to fuse box, the Fault 24 has not been seen since. I have even put
my tap back to 240v.

Hope this is of help to you Harry

Paul G0HWC

Check out my website www.g0hwc.com *Echolink node MB7ICL-L "381900"*

----- Original Message -----
From: Harry Williams
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 3:47 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults

I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice peaks kick it up to about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any help would be appreciated.

73,
Harry
W0LS

485. Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-30 22:13:37 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 478 Message: 485

Did this ever show up at the Alpha Store..?? IF so, how about the link..!!

de W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Darin,
>
> Yes, we had a bunch of the USB/serial adapters at Dayton. We've tested
> them all and also jumpered the necessary pins of the 25-pin connector end to
> set the 87A serial baudrate to 9600 (instead of the default 4800). They
> will be on the Alpha Store on the web site later today.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> Alpha Radio Products
>
> On Wed, Jul 22, 2009 at 7:09 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> >
> >
> > There was talk of having a USB adapter available for Dayton this year. Did
> > that ever happen? I just got my flex 3000 and I am on a mission to integrate
> > everything including my 87A.
> >
> > 73,
> > D.
> >
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>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

486. Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-30 22:24:55 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 478 Message: 486

Hi,

go to this URL:
http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Category_Code=ECMISC

then go to last page, its the last item $55

see item here:
http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC

then go to last page, its the last item $55

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clydescott40" <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> Did this ever show up at the Alpha Store..?? IF so, how about the link..!!
>
> de W4CCS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@> wrote:
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> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> > Alpha Radio Products
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> > On Wed, Jul 22, 2009 at 7:09 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@> wrote:
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> > AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> > ae0q@ --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> > http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
> >
>

487. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-30 23:11:18 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 478 Message: 487

I am curious. I am already setup serial to serial port. Is anything required other than a usb to serial Prolific adapter obtainable at Best Buy? What is special here?

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Young
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2009 3:25 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Hi,

go to this URL:
http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY
<http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Category_Code=ECMISC> &Store_Code=AS&Category_Code=ECMISC

then go to last page, its the last item $55

see item here:
http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD
<http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC>
&Store_Code=AS&Product_Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC

then go to last page, its the last item $55

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "clydescott40" <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> Did this ever show up at the Alpha Store..?? IF so, how about the link..!!
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> de W4CCS
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@> wrote:
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> > Hello Darin,
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> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> > Alpha Radio Products
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> > On Wed, Jul 22, 2009 at 7:09 AM, Darin Divinia <wg5j@> wrote:
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Did
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> > ae0q@ --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> > http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
> >
>

488. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-30 23:38:22 UTC
From: Rick Spiegel
Topic: 478 Message: 488

It is in the Alpha Store

http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=A87

Rick W0RIC

On Thu, Jul 30, 2009 at 4:13 PM, clydescott40 <w4ccs@w4ccs.com> wrote:

>
>
> Did this ever show up at the Alpha Store..?? IF so, how about the link..!!
>
> de W4CCS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, Glenn AE0Q
> <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
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> > Yes, we had a bunch of the USB/serial adapters at Dayton. We've tested
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> > ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> > http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
> >
>
>
>

489. Re: 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-31 13:22:46 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 480 Message: 489

Just a comment just in case someone is still unaware of this... NEVER use the low voltage switch position.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> Harry,
>
>
>
> Upon reading about your symptoms I have a couple questions. Do you ever
> operate SSB or CW? If so, do you get the same 24 fault with either of those
> modes?
>
>
>
> Secondly: Are you using the amp in the high voltage or low voltage switch
> position?
>
>
>
> If you are using the low voltage position, try high and see if that changes
> your luck. I'm sure you've already tried that one though.
>
>
>
> Best 73,
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> KB0X
>
>
>
>
>
> _____
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of Harry Williams
> Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:48 AM
> To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults
>

>
>
>
>
> I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first
> 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting
> the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After
> many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send
> me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp
> started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and
> use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should
> handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice
> peaks kick it up to about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing
> the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha
> focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was
> adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full
> output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty
> adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same
> problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V
> tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my
> line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and
> the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I
> could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which
> I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which
> is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know
> what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the
> reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the
> main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any
> help would be appreciated.
>
> 73,
> Harry
> W0LS
>

490. Re: 24 Faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-07-31 13:27:29 UTC
From: Mel
Topic: 480 Message: 490

Do you have a way to monitor and record your line voltage? I use a Radio Shack meter that records when hooked up to a computer... I'm sure such devices must still be available. Didn't cost much...

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Harry Williams <willisw200@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hi Jim,
>
> Yes, I do operate some SSB and cw and I have seen the faults occasionally when operating SSB but for sure they are most prevelent on AM. I have also seen the amp power off when idle on a few occasions as well as fault during the power up sequence. I have attempted to monitor the voltage levels using hyper terminal interface but have not been able to determine much other than the voltages look normal. I have used two sets of tubes and I get the same issue. Sometimes I have gone 2 months without seeing the problem and then it all of a sudden starts up again. What really perplexing is the 2 amps have shown the same behavior. I keep thinking about the power transformer since its the same transformer but I am not sure how it could cause this situation. Oh, your second question, I always use the amp with the B+ in the high position.
>
>
>
> Harry
>
>
>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> From: jim@...
> Date: Thu, 23 Jul 2009 10:10:48 -0500
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults
>
>
>
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>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Harry,
>
> Upon reading about your symptoms I have a couple questions. Do you ever operate SSB or CW? If so, do you get the same 24 fault with either of those modes?

>
> Secondly: Are you using the amp in the high voltage or low voltage switch position?
>
> If you are using the low voltage position, try high and see if that changes your luck. I'm sure you've already tried that one though.
>
> Best 73,
>
> Jim
> KB0X
>
>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Harry Williams
> Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 9:48 AM
> To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 24 Faults
>
>
>
> I have been plagued with "24" faults with my alpha 87a. I bought my first 87a from Alpha last year. It worked for awhile and then I started getting the 24 faults (under voltage condition on hv or -109 or 15v supplies). After many conversations with Alpha they said send it back and the they would send me another which I did...less the power transformer. The replacement amp started doing the same thing. By the way I use the amp with a Flex 5000a and use it on AM a lot which is certainly more of a stress on it but it should handle it with out a problem. I typically run it at 350W carrier so voice peaks kick it up to about 1500W pep. So when the second amp started showing the same issue and by the way this problem seems to come and go, Alpha focused on the the 240V line feeding the amp and was wondering if it was adequate. I monitored the line and saw at most a 2.5V drop from idle to full output. The line was a dedicated #12 about 30 feet long. They were pretty adamant about using a larger line so I went to a #10 and still had the same problem. Then they suggested that I move the transformer tap from the 240V tap down to the the 220V tap even though the 240V tap was correct for my line voltage. I did this and this of course this boosted the voltages and the problem seemed to be solved...but....I now see it happening again. I could go on and on....I think that the issue is either with connectors which I have cleaned and reseated several times or possibly the transformer which is still something common between the 2 amplifiers but really do not know what could be wrong with the transfromer. So I am wondering if anyone on the reflector has had a similar experience? I really like the amp and one of the main reasons I wanted it was for remote operations over the internet. Any help would be appreciated.
>
> 73,
> Harry
> W0LS
>

491. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-09 15:51:43 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 478 Message: 491

Hi Jim,

The default baud rate with no pins of the 25 pin connector shorted is
4800. We have jumpered the correct pins (very carefully with 30 ga wire) of
the 25-pin end of the USB-to-serial-adapter so that the 87A baudrate is set
to 9600. The higher baudrate is not necessary but nice to have, and we have
tested all of the USB-to-serial-adapters before shipping them.
If another adapter works with your PC and 87A, that is fine!

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Jul 30, 2009 at 5:11 PM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...>wrote:

>
>
> I am curious. I am already setup serial to serial port. Is anything
> required other than a usb to serial Prolific adapter obtainable at Best
> Buy? What is special here?
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Paul Young
> *Sent:* Thursday, July 30, 2009 3:25 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A
>
> Hi,
>
> go to this URL:
>
> http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Category_
Code=ECMISC
>
> then go to last page, its the last item $55
>
> see item here:
>
> http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_C
ode=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC
>
> then go to last page, its the last item $55
>
> Paul G0HWC

> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
>
>

492. Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-10 16:59:19 UTC
From: Dick Green
Topic: 478 Message: 492

Hi Glenn,

Which pins on the 87A side do you short together to get 9600 baud?

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Jim,
>
> The default baud rate with no pins of the 25 pin connector shorted is
> 4800. We have jumpered the correct pins (very carefully with 30 ga wire) of
> the 25-pin end of the USB-to-serial-adapter so that the 87A baudrate is set
> to 9600. The higher baudrate is not necessary but nice to have, and we have
> tested all of the USB-to-serial-adapters before shipping them.
> If another adapter works with your PC and 87A, that is fine!
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
> On Thu, Jul 30, 2009 at 5:11 PM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...>wrote:
>
> >
> >
> > I am curious. I am already setup serial to serial port. Is anything
> > required other than a usb to serial Prolific adapter obtainable at Best
> > Buy? What is special here?
> >
> > Jim
> >
> > K7EG
> >
> > *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> > Behalf Of *Paul Young
> > *Sent:* Thursday, July 30, 2009 3:25 PM
> > *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A
> >
> > Hi,
> >
> > go to this URL:
> >
> > http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Categor
y_Code=ECMISC
> >
> > then go to last page, its the last item $55
> >

> > see item here:
> >
> > http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC
> >
> > then go to last page, its the last item $55
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> >
> >
> >
> >
>

493. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-10 18:24:29 UTC
From: W4CCS
Topic: 478 Message: 493

Pins 12, 22, and 9 need to be jumped "LOW" for 9600 bps on the DB-25 connector.

de W4CCS - A Proud 87A Owner

Dick Green wrote:
>
>
> Hi Glenn,
>
> Which pins on the 87A side do you short together to get 9600 baud?
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Jim,
> >
> > The default baud rate with no pins of the 25 pin connector shorted is
> > 4800. We have jumpered the correct pins (very carefully with 30 ga
> wire) of
> > the 25-pin end of the USB-to-serial-adapter so that the 87A baudrate
> is set
> > to 9600. The higher baudrate is not necessary but nice to have, and
> we have
> > tested all of the USB-to-serial-adapters before shipping them.
> > If another adapter works with your PC and 87A, that is fine!
> >
> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> >
> > On Thu, Jul 30, 2009 at 5:11 PM, James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...>wrote:
> >
> > >
> > >
> > > I am curious. I am already setup serial to serial port. Is anything
> > > required other than a usb to serial Prolific adapter obtainable at
> Best
> > > Buy? What is special here?
> > >
> > > Jim
> > >
> > > K7EG
> > >
> > > *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] *On
> > > Behalf Of *Paul Young
> > > *Sent:* Thursday, July 30, 2009 3:25 PM
> > > *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: USB adapter for Alpha 87A
> > >
> > > Hi,
> > >
> > > go to this URL:
> > >
> > >
> http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Category_
Code=ECMISC
> <http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AS&Category
_Code=ECMISC>
> > >
> > > then go to last page, its the last item $55
> > >
> > > see item here:
> > >
> > >
> http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_C
ode=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC
> <http://alpharadioproducts.com/merchant5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=AS&Product_
Code=AJX-X287&Category_Code=ECMISC>
> > >
> > > then go to last page, its the last item $55
> > >
> > > Paul G0HWC
> > > http://www.g0hwc.com <http://www.g0hwc.com>
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> >
>
>

494. ALPHA 87A For Sale @ QTH.com

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-12 17:47:42 UTC
From: Steve Sacco
Topic: 494 Message: 494

This is *not* my amp, I have *no* relationship with the seller, and am just passing this along in case anyone is interested.The ad appeared at QTH.com

http://swap.qth.com/search-results.php?keywords=761227&fieldtosearch=ListingNo

ALPHA 87A
Have for sale nice ALPHA 87A automatic microprocessor controlled HF linear amplifier. 1500W output power. Very good condition.
Full power output.Original box and manual included. $3950
Listing #761227 - Submitted on 08/12/09 by Callsign N7MQN

495. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A For Sale @ QTH.com

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-12 19:57:36 UTC
From: John Elsik
Topic: 494 Message: 495

I guess a Technician class Licensee does not have much use for an Alpha :)

Decent price though--maybe

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: nn4x@yahoo.com
Date: Wed, 12 Aug 2009 10:47:42 -0700
Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A For Sale @ QTH.com

This is *not* my amp, I have *no* relationship with the seller, and am just passing this along in case anyone is interested.The ad appeared at QTH.com

http://swap.qth.com/search-results.php?keywords=761227&fieldtosearch=ListingNo

ALPHA 87A
Have for sale nice ALPHA 87A automatic microprocessor controlled HF linear amplifier. 1500W output power. Very good condition.
Full power output.Original box and manual included. $3950
Listing #761227 - Submitted on 08/12/09 by Callsign N7MQN

496. FS: Alpha 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-08-18 19:24:49 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 496 Message: 496

Hello Group,

I have for sale an Alpha 87a in good conditions with AlphaMax/AlphaRemote mod installed, original manual and schematics, original boxes and optional external
cooling fan for 3300€ + shipping. I will ship world wide.

For any question or photo contact me at: tadej.arcon@...

73s
--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

497. Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-06 16:54:06 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 497 Message: 497

On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..

ATE0Q1S7=255A
3 MINUTE WARM-UP

TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33

I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error occurred. Will not reset..!!

Any suggestions..??

de W4CCS

498. Re: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-06 17:04:39 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 497 Message: 498

Depending on the age of your amp. It might be worth your while to open it up, remove the low voltgage board and resolder all the connections. I have a similar problem with a 15 yr old 87A. It was a cold solder joint on the low voltage board. Alternatively, you can send it back for updating and repair. Probably won't cost you more than about $800 for a complete check-up and repair.

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: clydescott40
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2009 12:54 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up

On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..

ATE0Q1S7=255A
3 MINUTE WARM-UP

TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33

I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error occurred. Will not reset..!!

Any suggestions..??

de W4CCS

499. Re: Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-11 16:12:25 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 497 Message: 499

Follow up..

Sent Alpha Tech Support an Email Tuesday... Still waiting on a response.. This is Friday. (not holding my breath).

Found a physically damaged tip-107. Replaced and it came back to life for about 5 minutes..

Sent a web page request to Alpha for an RMA number.. Nothing..!! called this morning for an RAM number.. Nothing again.. Seems there is only one person in the entire company that can read Emails and issue RMA numbers ans that person is out of the office..!!

Customer Service..??

W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> Depending on the age of your amp. It might be worth your while to open it up, remove the low voltgage board and resolder all the connections. I have a similar problem with a 15 yr old 87A. It was a cold solder joint on the low voltage board. Alternatively, you can send it back for updating and repair. Probably won't cost you more than about $800 for a complete check-up and repair.
>
> 73,
> dave
> wa3gin
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: clydescott40
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2009 12:54 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up
>
>
> On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..
>
> ATE0Q1S7=255A
> 3 MINUTE WARM-UP
>
> TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33
>
> I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error occurred. Will not reset..!!
>
> Any suggestions..??
>

> de W4CCS
>

500. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-11 16:43:10 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 497 Message: 500

Hi,

I just spoke by phone with Courtney at Alpha few minutes ago....

Try Phone: 303.473.9232

73s Ted S52X

2009/9/11 clydescott40 <w4ccs@...>

>
>
> Follow up..
>
> Sent Alpha Tech Support an Email Tuesday... Still waiting on a response..
> This is Friday. (not holding my breath).
>
> Found a physically damaged tip-107. Replaced and it came back to life for
> about 5 minutes..
>
> Sent a web page request to Alpha for an RMA number.. Nothing..!! called
> this morning for an RAM number.. Nothing again.. Seems there is only one
> person in the entire company that can read Emails and issue RMA numbers ans
> that person is out of the office..!!
>
> Customer Service..??
>
> W4CCS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, "WA3GIN"
> <wa3gin@...> wrote:
> >
> > Depending on the age of your amp. It might be worth your while to open it
> up, remove the low voltgage board and resolder all the connections. I have a
> similar problem with a 15 yr old 87A. It was a cold solder joint on the low
> voltage board. Alternatively, you can send it back for updating and repair.
> Probably won't cost you more than about $800 for a complete check-up and
> repair.
> >
> > 73,
> > dave
> > wa3gin
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: clydescott40

> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2009 12:54 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up
> >
> >
> > On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..
> >
> > ATE0Q1S7=255A
> > 3 MINUTE WARM-UP
> >
> > TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33
> >
> > I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error
> occurred. Will not reset..!!
> >
> > Any suggestions..??
> >
> > de W4CCS
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

501. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-11 17:06:56 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 497 Message: 501

Hello,

I have checked our e-mail (service@...) and we never
received one from you this week regarding your 87A fault 33. I monitor this
Yahoo group via my personal e-mail.

The cause of a Fault 33 is usually a failed LED photosensor on the TUNE
capacitor. The sensor probably needs to be replaced. We can do that here,
it can be difficult to do in the field.

A Return Authorization number and shipping instructions are on the way.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Sep 11, 2009 at 10:12 AM, clydescott40 <w4ccs@...> wrote:

>
>
> Follow up..
>
> Sent Alpha Tech Support an Email Tuesday... Still waiting on a response..
> This is Friday. (not holding my breath).
>
> Found a physically damaged tip-107. Replaced and it came back to life for
> about 5 minutes..
>
> Sent a web page request to Alpha for an RMA number.. Nothing..!! called
> this morning for an RAM number.. Nothing again.. Seems there is only one
> person in the entire company that can read Emails and issue RMA numbers ans
> that person is out of the office..!!
>
> Customer Service..??
>
> W4CCS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, "WA3GIN"
> <wa3gin@...> wrote:
> >
> > Depending on the age of your amp. It might be worth your while to open it
> up, remove the low voltgage board and resolder all the connections. I have a
> similar problem with a 15 yr old 87A. It was a cold solder joint on the low
> voltage board. Alternatively, you can send it back for updating and repair.
> Probably won't cost you more than about $800 for a complete check-up and
> repair.
> >
> > 73,

> > dave
> > wa3gin
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: clydescott40
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2009 12:54 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up
> >
> >
> > On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..
> >
> > ATE0Q1S7=255A
> > 3 MINUTE WARM-UP
> >
> > TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33
> >
> > I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error
> occurred. Will not reset..!!
> >
> > Any suggestions..??
> >
> > de W4CCS
> >
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

502. Re: Error 33 on Start Up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-11 19:29:02 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 497 Message: 502

Hi Glenn

Thanks for the reply. The Email was sent via your web page on Tuesday. you may need to check with your webmaster and find out why you are not getting the support emails. Here is the link I used:

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/trouble_shoot_form.asp

Anyway, all is well. I just put the 87 A on FedEx and it is coming to you for your magic..!!

THANKS

de W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> I have checked our e-mail (service@...) and we never
> received one from you this week regarding your 87A fault 33. I monitor this
> Yahoo group via my personal e-mail.
>
> The cause of a Fault 33 is usually a failed LED photosensor on the TUNE
> capacitor. The sensor probably needs to be replaced. We can do that here,
> it can be difficult to do in the field.
>
> A Return Authorization number and shipping instructions are on the way.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Fri, Sep 11, 2009 at 10:12 AM, clydescott40 <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> >
> >
> > Follow up..
> >
> > Sent Alpha Tech Support an Email Tuesday... Still waiting on a response..
> > This is Friday. (not holding my breath).
> >
> > Found a physically damaged tip-107. Replaced and it came back to life for
> > about 5 minutes..
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> > Sent a web page request to Alpha for an RMA number.. Nothing..!! called
> > this morning for an RAM number.. Nothing again.. Seems there is only one

> > person in the entire company that can read Emails and issue RMA numbers ans
> > that person is out of the office..!!
> >
> > Customer Service..??
> >
> > W4CCS
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, "WA3GIN"
> > <wa3gin@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Depending on the age of your amp. It might be worth your while to open it
> > up, remove the low voltgage board and resolder all the connections. I have a
> > similar problem with a 15 yr old 87A. It was a cold solder joint on the low
> > voltage board. Alternatively, you can send it back for updating and repair.
> > Probably won't cost you more than about $800 for a complete check-up and
> > repair.
> > >
> > > 73,
> > > dave
> > > wa3gin
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: clydescott40
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2009 12:54 PM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Error 33 on Start Up
> > >
> > >
> > > On start up, I get the following error via the terminal program..
> > >
> > > ATE0Q1S7=255A
> > > 3 MINUTE WARM-UP
> > >
> > > TUNE MOTOR ERROR 33
> > >
> > > I had just moved from 3.950 MHz (working great) to 3.750 MHz when error
> > occurred. Will not reset..!!
> > >
> > > Any suggestions..??
> > >
> > > de W4CCS
> > >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

503. Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 02:59:48 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 503 Message: 503

I maybe sending my 87A back to Alpha shortly for some upgrades.
Not sure what shipping carrier Alpha reccomends, but I'm wondering which carrier others here have used to ship their Alpha Amps?
I've heard horror stories about different carriers?

DHL, Fedex, UPS ???

73, Clint WS1V

504. Re: [Alpha87a] Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 03:03:51 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 503 Message: 504

I used FEDEX twice...Alpha prefers AIR FRIEGHT rather than ground. Read their web site they have requirements for shipping. Fan screws must be mounted. Plate transformer removed. AC lince cord plug removed if not standard 20amp plug and there are packing requirements.

Best,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: clintws1v
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 10:59 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Shipping carriers ?

I maybe sending my 87A back to Alpha shortly for some upgrades.
Not sure what shipping carrier Alpha reccomends, but I'm wondering which carrier others here have used to ship their Alpha Amps?
I've heard horror stories about different carriers?

DHL, Fedex, UPS ???

73, Clint WS1V

505. Re: Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 15:14:26 UTC
From: ddivinia
Topic: 503 Message: 505

I talked to Alpha as to why they prefer the air freight option and they had numbers to back it up. Damage and failures went way down with this type of shipping, etc. Amp is worth $4000. No big deal to spend $200 on shipping.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> I used FEDEX twice...Alpha prefers AIR FRIEGHT rather than ground. Read their web site they have requirements for shipping. Fan screws must be mounted. Plate transformer removed. AC lince cord plug removed if not standard 20amp plug and there are packing requirements.
>
> Best,
> dave
> wa3gin
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: clintws1v
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 10:59 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Shipping carriers ?
>
>
> I maybe sending my 87A back to Alpha shortly for some upgrades.
> Not sure what shipping carrier Alpha reccomends, but I'm wondering which carrier others here have used to ship their Alpha Amps?
> I've heard horror stories about different carriers?
>
> DHL, Fedex, UPS ???
>
> 73, Clint WS1V
>

506. Re: Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 15:37:28 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 503 Message: 506

That is strange.. I talked to Alpha Friday to get an RMA number to send my 87A for repair and nothing was said about air freight. The lady I spoke with did not even offer any shipper suggestions until I ask then she just said they prefer FedEx. I sent mine ground.. Hope it gets there OK..!!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ddivinia" <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> I talked to Alpha as to why they prefer the air freight option and they had numbers to back it up. Damage and failures went way down with this type of shipping, etc. Amp is worth $4000. No big deal to spend $200 on shipping.
>
> D.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@> wrote:
> >
> > I used FEDEX twice...Alpha prefers AIR FRIEGHT rather than ground. Read their web site they have requirements for shipping. Fan screws must be mounted. Plate transformer removed. AC lince cord plug removed if not standard 20amp plug and there are packing requirements.
> >
> > Best,
> > dave
> > wa3gin
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: clintws1v
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 10:59 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Shipping carriers ?
> >
> >
> > I maybe sending my 87A back to Alpha shortly for some upgrades.
> > Not sure what shipping carrier Alpha reccomends, but I'm wondering which carrier others here have used to ship their Alpha Amps?
> > I've heard horror stories about different carriers?
> >
> > DHL, Fedex, UPS ???
> >
> > 73, Clint WS1V
> >
>

507. Re: Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 15:45:55 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 503 Message: 507

Very interesting - I recall they preferred DHL air when mine was returned based on least damage records. I still have the wooden pallet.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clydescott40" <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> That is strange.. I talked to Alpha Friday to get an RMA number to send my 87A for repair and nothing was said about air freight. The lady I spoke with did not even offer any shipper suggestions until I ask then she just said they prefer FedEx. I sent mine ground.. Hope it gets there OK..!!
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> > > DHL, Fedex, UPS ???
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> > > 73, Clint WS1V
> > >
> >
>

508. Re: Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-13 15:55:09 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 503 Message: 508

I think DHL has discontinued domestic service..

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Very interesting - I recall they preferred DHL air when mine was returned based on least damage records. I still have the wooden pallet.
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clydescott40" <w4ccs@> wrote:
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> > > >
> > > > 73, Clint WS1V
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

509. Re: Shipping carriers ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-14 20:27:22 UTC
From: ddivinia
Topic: 503 Message: 509

I sent mine in UPS ground but it came back air freight. I think it was Fedex. Call Alpha, they will give you the scoop.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "clydescott40" <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> That is strange.. I talked to Alpha Friday to get an RMA number to send my 87A for repair and nothing was said about air freight. The lady I spoke with did not even offer any shipper suggestions until I ask then she just said they prefer FedEx. I sent mine ground.. Hope it gets there OK..!!
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> > > Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2009 10:59 PM
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> >
>

510. Alpha NEWS **Please Read**

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 02:05:49 UTC
From: paulyoung004
Topic: 510 Message: 510

Alpha Radio Products Announces

Boulder, Colorado: September 15, 2009

Dear Alpha Customer:

I have some exciting news about some big changes at Alpha Radio Products. A newly formed company, RF Concepts, LLC, has acquired all the assets of Alpha Radio Products. RF Concepts will manufacture the world-class amplifiers and other products that, for more than 40 years, our community has come to appreciate. The 3CX1500A7 triode-based Alpha 9500 Amplifier, dual 4CX1000 tetrode-based Alpha 8410 Amplifier, legal-limit Model 2100 Dummy Load/Wattmeter combo, and line of 4500 Wattmeters will continue to be handmade in our Boulder Colorado factory.

Here's the story about my involvement with Alpha Radio Products and the new company, RF Concepts, LLC:

I'm Michael Seedman, AA6DY. I was originally licensed in 1969 as WN6FUE, about the time that ETO released their first linear amplifier, the ALPHA SEVENTY. I remember reading QST, CQ, and Ham Radio Magazine cover to cover. Do you remember the Alpha ad where they put a brick on the straight key to signify "Full power, no limits"? I sure do - and ever since then I've wanted to own an Alpha amplifier. During the last 40 years, my specific interests in Ham Radio have varied. Sometimes I spent my time building receivers, sometimes building transmitters, sometimes stringing antennas in the trees, and sometimes building QRP rigs. I've even built a homebrew 4-1000A based Linear Amplifier. Recently I've spent my spare time working DX. As my friend Jack Hudson, W9MU, says, "Life is too short for QRP when you're collecting countries." So I set out to build a QRO HF station. I ordered an HF rig, strung a couple of dipoles in the trees, and went looking for an amplifier. Of course, not just any amplifier, it had to be an Alpha. A few visits to eBay later I had a used Alpha 87A in my shack.

What a difference a few watts make. It didn't take long to rack up a couple hundred countries with my Alpha 87A loafing along at 1500 watts output. Soon the dipoles came down and the two-element Steppir went up. There's nothing more exciting than a callback when you're trying to bust a pileup. I was so impressed with my Alpha 87A that I called Alpha to purchase a new 9500. I was disappointed to learn that I would not receive it for months.

Molly Hardman, W0MOM, the president of Alpha Radio Products, explained that each amp is handmade. Although she said she'd love to put Alpha amplifiers on the shelf, she has had a difficult time financing the inventory necessary to do just that. Hers was a just-in-time manufacturing environment, and she held enough inventory to work on just a few orders. She shared some of her numbers with me. Together we created a way to capitalize the company in order to put amplifiers in inventory for immediate availability. Customers will no longer have to wait weeks or months to add an Alpha product to their station.

At the beginning of September 2009, the new company RF Concepts, LLC purchased all Alpha Radio Products assets and hired the seasoned team necessary to build these exceptional

products. And, we've already put some changes in effect to make sure we serve our customers even better than before. There's still a lot of work to do, but we're very excited about the prospects.

Here's the lineup at the new RF Concepts, LLC:

Molly Hardman (W0MOM) will head up our sales effort as the new Vice President of Sales.

Brad Focken (K0HM), and Glenn Pladsen (AE0Q) will continue their awesome work on the front lines of engineering, service, and support.

Gordon Hardman (W0RUN), the designer who, along with Brad Focken (K0HM), engineered the award-winning Alpha 9500 and Alpha 8410, has joined the company as Vice President of engineering to develop new Alpha-branded products. He's got some great product ideas and is turning those ideas into reality.

Steve Farkas (WA2NFR), a seasoned executive and very creative engineer, has joined the company as president, responsible for overseeing and operating RF Concepts, LLC.

And here's what it means for our customers:

Effective September 1, 2009, we've lowered pricing on all Alpha products:

The Alpha 9500 Amplifier will be reduced from $10,150 to $7,950.

The Alpha 8410 Amplifier will be reduced from $5,895 to $4,995.

The Alpha 2100 Dummy load with its integrated wattmeter will be reduced from $1,950 to $1,495.

The Alpha 4520 Wattmeter will be reduced from $1,195 to $995, the Alpha 4510 Wattmeter will be reduced from $1,095 to $945; its front-panel-less computer-connected cousins, the Alpha 4505 and 4515, will be reduced to $545 and $595 respectively.

· All customers who have orders pending with Alpha Radio Products will receive their new Alpha amplifiers from RF Concepts at the new, lower price. Any deposits made at Alpha Radio Products will be applied as discounts to your RF Concepts invoice. For instance, if you ordered an Alpha 9500 at $10,150 and sent Alpha Radio Products a $5,000 deposit, RF Concepts will deliver your Alpha 9500 for $7,950 - $5,000 = $2,950, plus any applicable shipping and taxes.

· If you're the original owner who received an Alpha amplifier from the factory during the period between March 1, 2009 and August 31, 2009, RF Concepts will give you a credit equal to the difference between your original purchase price and our new price. This effectively retroactively reduces the price you paid for the amp you've already received to match our new, lower price. This non-transferrable credit can be applied toward any RF Concepts product (including any Alpha-branded product), through August 31, 2010. Use it today to buy anything in our product line, or save it and use it later on one of our upcoming products. Please understand that the credit can be redeemed only at RF Concepts and has no cash value. It's our way of saying thanks for being an Alpha Radio Products customer.

We will focus on shipping our backlog of Alpha amplifiers and building sufficient product to ship from stock. No more waiting for delivery while your amp is being built. When you're ready to place an Alpha amp at your operating position, give us a call.

We will continue to operate from the existing Boulder, Colorado factory, use the same phone number and retain the www.alpharadioproducts.com URL along with the new www.rfconcepts.com URL. We will honor our existing customer commitments, including warranties, customer and technical support, and repairs, and keep our extensive parts inventories to support the more than 10,000 Alpha amplifiers in the market.

Please visit us online, drop us a note, call us, or stop by our booth at one of the many Amateur Radio conventions and Hamfests we'll be attending this year.

We are grateful that you have chosen Alpha Radio Products, and look forward to serving you in the future.

73's
Michael Seedman, AA6DY
Chairman
RF Concepts, LLC

511. For Sale Alpha 87a - I may regret this, but ...

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 04:48:26 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 511 Message: 511

Serial 91461303
I use this amp to chase DX in the summer when I am at this location.
Over the years, very little accumulated time as I am not a contester.

Full output on all bands. Works as new. Clean exterior. Quiet.
I had a noisy birdcage blower which I changed out about 3 months ago.
This unit had caps replaced when I drove it to the factory about 3 years ago, and was upgraded with Alpha Max and the new software. I have never even tried the remote computer controlled interface which for my operation is a bauble I never needed.

It just sits on my desk, puts out full limit on all modes when asked, never complains. I turn it on, I turn it off. A joy to have owned it. I am moving to the 9500.

I can not honestly state the age of the tubes. All I know is that they still do their job perfectly.

Price is $4500 if you come try it out and pick it up in Hattiesburg, MS.
Otherwise shipping CONUS we will negotiate. I prefer not to expose my baby to UPS.

817-821-0924 Ken K5WK

512. FS: Alpha 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 10:54:22 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 496 Message: 512
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hello Group,

I have still for sale an Alpha 87a in good conditions with AlphaMax/AlphaRemote mod installed, original manual and schematics, original boxes and optional external cooling fan for 3000€ + shipping. I will ship from Slovenia or Italy.

For any question or photo contact me at: tadej.arcon@...

73s
--
Tadej Arcon

513. Re: RF Concepts.. The new Alpha.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 11:56:13 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 496 Message: 513

WOW, this is great news.. I love the new price structure. Good luck on the new company.. I may now take a serious look at the 9500..!! Still love my 87-A.

de W4CCS

514. Re:Alpha NEWS **Please Read**

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 19:24:42 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 510 Message: 514

Bravo, I love my 87 A and have many RF Concepts uhf and vhf amps. I do hope this will be a Plus for both companies. Keep up the standard of excelence currently enjoyed.

Tom

N6AJR

515. Re: News From Alpha....!!!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-16 19:44:06 UTC
From: Bill Winkis
Topic: 510 Message: 515

Having just received my 8410 the other day and "tickled Pink" with it ..... I fully understand the pressure Molly and the Alpha folks were under but they never let up on the Alpha Tradition, now with the inclusion of some new quality blood and a ++ kick in the cash flow department we can only expect great things from this high quality house....

Congratulations!!

-Bill Winkis
kc4pe@...

----- Original Message -----
From: catfishtwo@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 3:24 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:Alpha NEWS **Please Read**

Bravo, I love my 87 A and have many RF Concepts uhf and vhf amps. I do hope this will be a Plus for both companies. Keep up the standard of excelence currently enjoyed.

Tom

N6AJR

516. Fault code 26 and 17 from the Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-18 09:46:37 UTC
From: Bert Van Oort
Topic: 510 Message: 516

Now’s somebody help me what we can do about this the SF 26 and 17.
We did clean the blower and after the cleaning we do have fault code 26 when we start the amp, and then we have fault code 17 on each band, it doesn’t matter what kind off band we are using. First we where thinking there was a wire loss and we did fix that, but he still give me the same SF 26 and 17 fault code.
can somebody help me.

Thanks

Bert PE2KY

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: kc4pe@...
Date: Wed, 16 Sep 2009 15:44:06 -0400
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: News From Alpha....!!!

Having just received my 8410 the other day and "tickled Pink" with it ..... I fully understand the pressure Molly and the Alpha folks were under but they never let up on the Alpha Tradition, now with the inclusion of some new quality blood and a ++ kick in the cash flow department we can only expect great things from this high quality house....

Congratulations!!

-Bill Winkis
kc4pe@...

----- Original Message -----
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 3:24 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:Alpha NEWS **Please Read**

Bravo, I love my 87 A and have many RF Concepts uhf and vhf amps. I do hope this will be a Plus for both companies. Keep up the standard of excelence currently enjoyed.

Tom

N6AJR

_____
Nieuws, entertainment en de laatste roddels. Je vind het op MSN.nl!
http://nl.msn.com/

517. Amp is reading the frequency of the transceiver 2 Mhz higher than actual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-19 00:25:38 UTC
From: Juergen
Topic: 517 Message: 517

Hope that somebody can provide an easy and fast solution for the following problem (to allow me to work FT5 ... barfoot it's quite difficult):

The amplifier is switching off when RF is applied to the input (amp in operate mode) with fault 17. The frequency the smp tries to set is 12040 instead of 10105 (and the amp band is set to 14 Mhz), or 16040 instead of 14020 etc.(and the amp band is set to 14 Mhz with the highest segment), therefore it's somehow natural that the amp is switching off because it is unable to tune properly.

What I did as first attempt to solve the problemthe first time when I realised the switch off was to manually switch the band buttons between 1.8 and 28 Mhz several times, but no change.

Any idea?

73

Juergen, DL8LE

518. Re: [Alpha87a] Amp is reading the frequency of the transceiver 2 Mhz higher than actual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-19 09:37:02 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 517 Message: 518

Hi Jurgen,

go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/ and look for
"Fault_17.txt" file. It seems the solution for you.

73s Tadej S52X

2009/9/19 Juergen <dl8le@...>

>
>
> Hope that somebody can provide an easy and fast solution for the following
> problem (to allow me to work FT5 ... barfoot it's quite difficult):
>
> The amplifier is switching off when RF is applied to the input (amp in
> operate mode) with fault 17. The frequency the smp tries to set is 12040
> instead of 10105 (and the amp band is set to 14 Mhz), or 16040 instead of
> 14020 etc.(and the amp band is set to 14 Mhz with the highest segment),
> therefore it's somehow natural that the amp is switching off because it is
> unable to tune properly.
>
> What I did as first attempt to solve the problemthe first time when I
> realised the switch off was to manually switch the band buttons between 1.8
> and 28 Mhz several times, but no change.
>
> Any idea?
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

519. Re: Amp is reading the frequency of the transceiver 2 Mhz higher than actual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-20 14:20:29 UTC
From: Juergen
Topic: 517 Message: 519

Hello Tadej,

at the moment I believe that the fault 17 is probably a consequence of the wrong settings of the amp: as the amp understands the tx-frequency as 2 Mhz higher than the real tx frequency and input to the amp the Alpha is unable to provide the correct tuning thus leading to a fault 17 case. This means that the frequency counter doesn't work. Remark: I have got the information about the frequency etc. from the communication between the amp and the Alpha87-CAT-program.

For me it is strange that the frequency counter is decoding the input frequency as 2 Mhz higher. Question is, why? Could a diode at the wattmeter be the culprit? I don't know, unfortunately. I am unsure if I could disconnect the RF-input to ABX-X182-board and use the manual settings and replace the board later on. Might be that this information is clearer now than the previous mail.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Jurgen,
>
> go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/ and look for
> "Fault_17.txt" file. It seems the solution for you.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2009/9/19 Juergen <dl8le@...>
>
> >
> >
> > Hope that somebody can provide an easy and fast solution for the following
> > problem (to allow me to work FT5 ... barfoot it's quite difficult):
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> > The amplifier is switching off when RF is applied to the input (amp in
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> > 14020 etc.(and the amp band is set to 14 Mhz with the highest segment),
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> > What I did as first attempt to solve the problemthe first time when I
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> > and 28 Mhz several times, but no change.

> >
> > Any idea?
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> > 73
> >
> > Juergen, DL8LE
> >
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>
> --
> Tadej Arcon
>

520. What's your typical plate voltage with HI setting?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-24 05:38:53 UTC
From: brianmo
Topic: 520 Message: 520

I may be hallucinating, but I thought I recalled the plate voltage at idle to be right at 3.0kv (the last bar). Now it's the 2nd from the last, and sometimes the third from the right flickers (again, at idle).

What are others seeing, and what should it be?

Thanks,
Brian N9ADG

521. Re: [Alpha87a] What's your typical plate voltage with HI setting?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-24 14:26:21 UTC
From: kinkykinkyken-one@yahoo.com
Topic: 520 Message: 521

second to last here.

--- On Thu, 9/24/09, brianmo <brianmo@...> wrote:

From: brianmo <brianmo@...>
Subject: [Alpha87a] What's your typical plate voltage with HI setting?
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009, 12:38 AM

I may be hallucinating, but I thought I recalled the plate voltage at idle to be right at 3.0kv (the last bar). Now it's the 2nd from the last, and sometimes the third from the right flickers (again, at idle).

What are others seeing, and what should it be?

Thanks,
Brian N9ADG

Yahoo! Groups Links

522. Re: [Alpha87a] What's your typical plate voltage with HI setting?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-24 15:21:12 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 520 Message: 522

Hello Brian,

The 87A HV is typically 2700vdc when tapped correctly for AC Input voltage.

The Multimeter bargraph LED that is lit depends on the calibration of the bargraph and the signal from the microprocessor that drives the bargraph, usually the 3rd or 2nd LED from right for the HV reading.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Wed, Sep 23, 2009 at 11:38 PM, brianmo <brianmo@...> wrote:

I may be hallucinating, but I thought I recalled the plate voltage at idle
> to be right at 3.0kv (the last bar). Now it's the 2nd from the last, and
> sometimes the third from the right flickers (again, at idle).
>
> What are others seeing, and what should it be?
>
> Thanks,
> Brian N9ADG
>
>
> __,._,___
>
--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

523. moderator

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-24 19:21:13 UTC
From: barbiekenw
Topic: 523 Message: 523

```
Please unsubribe me.
My attempts have failed.
```

524. Re: What's your typical plate voltage with HI setting?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-09-24 21:11:42 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 520 Message: 524

Hi Brian

My 87A plate voltage lights third led from right key up (2700VDC). Key down (1500W) led indicates about 2500 volts. Amp is on dedicated 220VAC circuit located 5 feet from the main breaker panel - stiff supply.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "brianmo" <brianmo@...> wrote:
>
> I may be hallucinating, but I thought I recalled the plate voltage at idle to be right at 3.0kv (the last bar). Now it's the 2nd from the last, and sometimes the third from the right flickers (again, at idle).
>
> What are others seeing, and what should it be?
>
> Thanks,
> Brian N9ADG
>

525. Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-30 01:31:28 UTC
From: donnyr7
Topic: 525 Message: 525

I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't now use the screws, the squirrel cage hits metal when the blower starts and clanks. I'm able to use the Amp by now using the two screws to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was free floating. I'm wondering if anyone knows what kind of mounting is used for the blower? I've heard that it is mounted on plastic foam, and the foam may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing the blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and how it was used??
Many thanks,

Don - K6IGP

526. Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-30 21:46:45 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 525 Message: 526

Hi Don,

I've replaced the blower in my 87a, and there's no "foam" that I encountered. The mount is comprised of rubber bushings.

You may want to check out the Alpha Radio link for blower replacement:

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp

Hope that helps....

73

Joe
WDØM

>
>
> -------- Original Message --------
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting
> Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 01:31:28 -0000
> From: donnyr7 <donnyr3@gmail.com>
> Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>
>
>
>
>
> I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two
> screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't
> now use the screws, the squirrel cage hits metal when the blower
> starts and clanks. I'm able to use the Amp by now using the two screws
> to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was
> free floating.
> I'm wondering if anyone knows what kind of mounting is used for the
> blower? I've heard that it is mounted on plastic foam, and the foam
> may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing the
> blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states
> the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber
> washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and
> how it was used??
> Many thanks,
>
> Don - K6IGP
>
>

> ----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.39/2469 - Release Date: 10/30/09 01:52:00
>
>

527. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-30 23:09:44 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 525 Message: 527

Hi Don,

I replaced my blower about a year ago and the replacement
I got from Alpha had a thin foam pad around 3mm from
what I can remember. I no longer have the old blower
but it was not the same..

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: donnyr7
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 1:31 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't now use the screws, the squirrel cage hits metal when the blower starts and clanks. I'm able to use the Amp by now using the two screws to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was free floating. I'm wondering if anyone knows what kind of mounting is used for the blower? I've heard that it is mounted on plastic foam, and the foam may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing the blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and how it was used??
Many thanks,

Don - K6IGP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.37/2466 - Release Date: 10/28/09 19:39:00

528. Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-31 15:44:12 UTC
From: donnyr7
Topic: 525 Message: 528

Thanks for the info Joe.
I've ordered a replacement blower and will let you know what sort of mounting comes with it. I'm sure it will be a challenge to replace it, but it should make the unit run quieter.

Don

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe <wd0m@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Don,
>
> I've replaced the blower in my 87a, and there's no "foam" that I
> encountered. The mount is comprised of rubber bushings.
>
> You may want to check out the Alpha Radio link for blower replacement:
>
> http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp
>
> Hope that helps....
>
> 73
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
>
>
> >
> >
> > -------- Original Message --------
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting
> > Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 01:31:28 -0000
> > From: donnyr7 <donnyr3@...>
> > Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
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> > starts and clanks. I'm able to use the Amp by now using the two screws
> > to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was
> > free floating.

> > I'm wondering if anyone knows what kind of mounting is used for the
> > blower? I've heard that it is mounted on plastic foam, and the foam
> > may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing the
> > blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states
> > the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber
> > washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and
> > how it was used??
> > Many thanks,
> >
> > Don - K6IGP
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> >
> > ---
> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> > Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.39/2469 - Release Date: 10/30/09 01:52:00
> >
> >
>

529. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-31 15:48:20 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 525 Message: 529

You're welcome - I helped rewrite the instructions for the blower after I replaced mine and added the photo at the last showing the removal of the blower. Take your time, and, if you have a digital camera, take a picture of all the items you may want to remember when you put it back together. Makes life easier!

73

Joe
WDØM

donnyr7 wrote:
>
>
> Thanks for the info Joe.
> I've ordered a replacement blower and will let you know what sort of
> mounting comes with it. I'm sure it will be a challenge to replace it,
> but it should make the unit run quieter.
>
> Don
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> Joe <wd0m@...> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Don,
> >
> > I've replaced the blower in my 87a, and there's no "foam" that I
> > encountered. The mount is comprised of rubber bushings.
> >
> > You may want to check out the Alpha Radio link for blower replacement:
> >
> > http://www.alpharad ioproducts. com/techtips. asp
> <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp>
> >
> > Hope that helps....
> >
> > 73
> >
> > Joe
> > WDØM
> >
> >
> >
> > >
> > >
> > > -------- Original Message --------

> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting
> > > Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 01:31:28 -0000
> > > From: donnyr7 <donnyr3@... >
> > > Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup s.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two
> > > screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't
> > > now use the screws, the squirrel cage hits metal when the blower
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> > > to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was
> > > free floating.
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> > > blower? I've heard that it is mounted on plastic foam, and the foam
> > > may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing
> the
> > > blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states
> > > the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber
> > > washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and
> > > how it was used??
> > > Many thanks,
> > >
> > > Don - K6IGP
>
>

530. Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-31 15:46:20 UTC
From: donnyr7
Topic: 525 Message: 530

Thanks Paul,

I've ordered a replacement blower and will let you know what sort of mounting comes with it. I'm sure it will be a challenge to replace it, but it should make the unit run quieter. In the meantime, I'll keep it secured with the two screws used for shipping.

Don

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Don,
>
> I replaced my blower about a year ago and the replacement
> I got from Alpha had a thin foam pad around 3mm from
> what I can remember. I no longer have the old blower
> but it was not the same..
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
>
>
> From: donnyr7
> Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 1:31 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting
>
>
> I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't now use the screws, the squirrel cage hits metal when the blower starts and clanks. I'm able to use the Amp by now using the two screws to hold the blower in place, but it is a bit noisier than if it was free floating.
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> ----------
>
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.37/2466 - Release Date: 10/28/09 19:39:00
>

531. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-10-31 15:52:03 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 525 Message: 531

Hi Don,

you will find this link some help. Its a PDF showing how to replace
the internal blower. Take ya time, its not easy.

http://dxped.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=16&Itemid=144

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

Sent: Saturday, October 31, 2009 3:44 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A Blower Mounting

Thanks for the info Joe.
I've ordered a replacement blower and will let you know what sort of mounting comes with
it. I'm sure it will be a challenge to replace it, but it should make the unit run quieter.

Don

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe <wd0m@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Don,
>
> I've replaced the blower in my 87a, and there's no "foam" that I
> encountered. The mount is comprised of rubber bushings.
>
> You may want to check out the Alpha Radio link for blower replacement:
>
> http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/techtips.asp
>
> Hope that helps....
>
> 73
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
>
>
> >
> >
> > -------- Original Message --------
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Mounting
> > Date: Fri, 30 Oct 2009 01:31:28 -0000
> > From: donnyr7 <donnyr3@...>
> > Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > I have an early 87A which I shipped to myself without using the two
> > screws to secure the internal blower. The result is that if I don't
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> > may have become distorted in shipping. I'd like to avoid replacing the
> > blower if possible but not sure what else I can do. The manual states
> > the the blower should be secured for shipping by two screws, fiber
> > washers, and a rubber "Shim". Does anyone know what the "shim" is and
> > how it was used??
> > Many thanks,
> >
> > Don - K6IGP
> >
> >
> > ---
> >
> >
> > No virus found in this incoming message.
> > Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> > Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.39/2469 - Release Date: 10/30/09 01:52:00
> >
> >
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.698 / Virus Database: 270.14.39/2470 - Release Date: 10/30/09 15:18:00

532. Production date

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-01 23:20:36 UTC
From: james_heye@sbcglobal.net
Topic: 532 Message: 532

Hi all I'm new to the group just moving uo from a Alpha 89 to a 87A and I'm trying to deterime the production date of a 87A. The web site list pproduction dates for Alpha/Legacy amplifiers thru the 91b but nothing newer. Does anyone know what method Alpha used to idenitify the 87A production date?

Thanks for the help!

Jim
K5WLQ

533. Re: [Alpha87a] Production date

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-01 23:32:42 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 532 Message: 533

Gruop,
Shortly after I sent a message requesting production date information help, I received a message from Molly at Alpha informing me my 87A amplifier was shipped in the first half of 2000.

Thanks to all

Jim
K5WLQ

From: "james_heye@..." <james_heye@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 5:20:36 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Production date

Hi all I'm new to the group just moving uo from a Alpha 89 to a 87A and I'm trying to deterime the production date of a 87A. The web site list pproduction dates for Alpha/Legacy amplifiers thru the 91b but nothing newer. Does anyone know what method Alpha used to idenitify the 87A production date?

Thanks for the help!

Jim
K5WLQ

534. PRODUCTION DATE INFO

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-01 23:36:45 UTC
From: rickspiegel
Topic: 534 Message: 534

1st two numbers is the year. Example 9315xxxx. Second number is the week.

So, 1993, 15th week.

I hope that helps.

73
Rick
W0RIC

535. Re: [Alpha87a] PRODUCTION DATE INFO

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-02 00:03:25 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 534 Message: 535

... and the rest seems to be the unit number.

73s Ted S52X

2009/11/2 rickspiegel <rickspiegel@...>

>
>
> 1st two numbers is the year. Example 9315xxxx. Second number is the week.
>
> So, 1993, 15th week.
>
> I hope that helps.
>
> 73
> Rick
> W0RIC
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

536. RE: [Alpha87a] Production date

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-02 01:27:34 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 532 Message: 536

I'm putting a reply from Glenn to the exception for the 87A.

"Ahh, you hit one of the exceptions, there, Larry. After 2000 we changed from 8 to 10 digit serial
numbers. The first 2 are the model (87A), the next 4 are date code (37th week of 2004). The first
87a amps were shipped in 1991 so that is the earliest date code for that model.

The last 4 digits are the sequential number of the 87A in production of the amps. The last was
around 1500.

73 - Glenn AE0Q"

73 Larry K1ZW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of JAMES HEYE
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2009 6:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Production date

Gruop,
Shortly after I sent a message requesting production date information help, I received a message
from Molly at Alpha informing me my 87A amplifier was shipped in the first half of 2000.

Thanks to all

Jim
K5WLQ

From: "james_heye@..." <james_heye@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 5:20:36 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Production date

Hi all I'm new to the group just moving uo from a Alpha 89 to a 87A and I'm trying to deterime the
production date of a 87A. The web site list pproduction dates for Alpha/Legacy amplifiers thru the
91b but nothing newer. Does anyone know what method Alpha used to idenitify the 87A production date?

Thanks for the help!

Jim
K5WLQ

537. ETO Digital Antenna Selector for sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 18:08:45 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 537 Message: 537

Iam selling my ETO Digital Antenna Selector with a Top-Ten 6 port remote antenna switch. Both items are in excellent condition. $450 plus shipping for the pair.

Jim
K7EG

538. Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 18:21:24 UTC
From: ke5mmt
Topic: 538 Message: 538

Hello:

I'm a new 87a owner s/n 91230111 with AlphaMax installed.

AlphaRemote ver. 1.1.9 is installed on my computer (Win XP 32 bit). I'm using a USB to Serial converter for the amp/computer connection.

I can communicate with the Alpha using Hyperterminal (4800, N, 8, 1, no flow control) without any problems.

However I cannot get the AlphaRemote software to play. I've checked and rechecked the settings to verify that it's also set to 4800, n, 8, 1 and it is. I've removed and added the amp from AlphaRemote's device configuration list. I've switched USB ports and tried it on com port 6, 22 and 23 without any luck. In every case I can talk to the Alpha using Hyperterminal but not with AlphaRemote.

What am I missing?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

539. Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 21:42:57 UTC
From: donnyr7
Topic: 293 Message: 539

Hi,

I have an older Alpha 87A that works perfect on all bands except 160M.
On 160, it cuts out with a fault 17 as soon as any drive is recognized. Its connected to a dummy load and it cuts out when the drive power reaches about 5 watts with fault 17.

I've checked the bandswitches visually when in the 160 position, and they appear to be right on position.

I ran GPIO and got 0,0,66,63 with about 60 watts drive on 160.
I have Alphamax installed. I've visually checked the Pad Capacitors which appear normal, but have not removed them to test.

Anyone have any suggestions or a similar experience?

Thanks,

Don - K6IGP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Glenn AE0Q" <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Al,
>
> The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> appropriate level of output.
>
> If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment
> and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> Alpha if you need them.
>
> If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed
> diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output
> wattmeters.
>
> Here are some tests.
>
> 1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with
> the amplifier.
>
> 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w
> from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).
>
> 3) On the PC, type EXT ON.
>
> 4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command
> reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each

> time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w
> output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the
> wattmeter diodes are damaged.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@...> wrote:
> >
> > I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> > code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
> > from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even though
> > the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No change.
> > I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No change.
> > I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.
> >
> > Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> > happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts.
> > Below that power everything works as it used to.
> >
> > Any ideas what to try next?
> >
> > 73, Al K3TKJ
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q / V31RY ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

540. AlphaMax Operation Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 21:57:39 UTC
From: donnyr7
Topic: 540 Message: 540

Hi,

I installed AlphaMax on an early Alpha 87A and it appears that everything works OK except the front panel button Auto-on sequence.

I can activate Auto Tune from the Alpha Remote software and everything appears to work as advertised. However, pressing the Enter and Load^ buttons on the front panel does not turn Autotune on. The only way I can turn it on is from Aplha Remote. Once I turn it on remotely, it will stay on until one of the tune or load buttons is touched.

Otherwise the tune and load buttons work fine.

The Alpha 87A is a great amp and AlphaMax is a great addition to its capabilities. If anyone has had this problem, please let me know.

Thanks!

Don - K6IGP

541. Re: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 23:26:13 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 538 Message: 541

Go into your SYSTEM, HDWR, DEVIDES and check the COMPORTS, CLICK on properties and ensure you have the speed set to 4800. Also be sure your PC recognized the USB device. It can be tricky.

Good Luck,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: ke5mmt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 1:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Hello:

I'm a new 87a owner s/n 91230111 with AlphaMax installed.

AlphaRemote ver. 1.1.9 is installed on my computer (Win XP 32 bit). I'm using a USB to Serial converter for the amp/computer connection.

I can communicate with the Alpha using Hyperterminal (4800, N, 8, 1, no flow control) without any problems.

However I cannot get the AlphaRemote software to play. I've checked and rechecked the settings to verify that it's also set to 4800, n, 8, 1 and it is. I've removed and added the amp from AlphaRemote's device configuration list. I've switched USB ports and tried it on com port 6, 22 and 23 without any luck. In every case I can talk to the Alpha using Hyperterminal but not with AlphaRemote.

What am I missing?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

542. Re: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-14 23:45:00 UTC
From: Donald Richtenburg
Topic: 538 Message: 542

Dave,

Thanks for the response.

.All the comports and Alpha Remote work fine. Its the two buttons on the front panel of the Alpha that don't work for turning Auto Tune on.

The Enter button and Load^ buttons are suppose to turn on auto tune, but they don't.

Don

K6IGP

On Nov 14, 2009, at 3:26 PM, WA3GIN wrote:

Go into your SYSTEM, HDWR, DEVIDES and check the COMPORTS, CLICK on properties and ensure you have the speed set to 4800. Also be sure your PC recognized the USB device. It can be tricky.

Good Luck,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: ke5mmt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 1:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Hello:

I'm a new 87a owner s/n 91230111 with AlphaMax installed.

AlphaRemote ver. 1.1.9 is installed on my computer (Win XP 32 bit). I'm using a USB to Serial converter for the amp/computer connection.

I can communicate with the Alpha using Hyperterminal (4800, N, 8, 1, no flow control) without any problems.

However I cannot get the AlphaRemote software to play. I've checked and rechecked the settings to verify that it's also set to 4800, n, 8, 1 and it is. I've removed and added the amp from AlphaRemote's device configuration list. I've switched USB ports and tried it on com port 6, 22 and 23 without any luck. In every case I can talk to the Alpha using Hyperterminal but not with AlphaRemote.

What am I missing?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

543. Re: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 04:00:14 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 538 Message: 543

Hmmm,

I've not used that function from the panel. I'm addicated to the virtual controls.

Best,
dave
----- Original Message -----
From: Donald Richtenburg
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 6:45 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Dave,

Thanks for the response.

.All the comports and Alpha Remote work fine. Its the two buttons on the front panel of the Alpha that don't work for turning Auto Tune on.

The Enter button and Load^ buttons are suppose to turn on auto tune, but they don't.

Don

K6IGP

On Nov 14, 2009, at 3:26 PM, WA3GIN wrote:

Go into your SYSTEM, HDWR, DEVIDES and check the COMPORTS, CLICK on properties and ensure you have the speed set to 4800. Also be sure your PC recognized the USB device. It can be tricky.

Good Luck,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: ke5mmt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 1:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Hello:

I'm a new 87a owner s/n 91230111 with AlphaMax installed.

AlphaRemote ver. 1.1.9 is installed on my computer (Win XP 32 bit). I'm using a USB to Serial converter for the amp/computer connection.

I can communicate with the Alpha using Hyperterminal (4800, N, 8, 1, no flow control) without any problems.

However I cannot get the AlphaRemote software to play. I've checked and rechecked the settings to verify that it's also set to 4800, n, 8, 1 and it is. I've removed and added the amp from AlphaRemote's device configuration list. I've switched USB ports and tried it on com port 6, 22 and 23 without any luck. In every case I can talk to the Alpha using Hyperterminal but not with AlphaRemote.

What am I missing?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

544. Re: Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 04:21:18 UTC
From: ke5mmt
Topic: 538 Message: 544

Dave:

Thanks, everything checks out and is working fine.

Hyperterminal uses the port to talk to the Alpha without any problems; DDUtil also talks to the Alpha using the same port and controls it just fine too. AlphaRemote doesn't. I just can't figure out why.

Everett
KE5MMT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> Go into your SYSTEM, HDWR, DEVIDES and check the COMPORTS, CLICK on properties and ensure you have the speed set to 4800. Also be sure your PC recognized the USB device. It can be tricky.
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> dave
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> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 1:21 PM
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> I can communicate with the Alpha using Hyperterminal (4800, N, 8, 1, no flow control) without any problems.
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> However I cannot get the AlphaRemote software to play. I've checked and rechecked the settings to verify that it's also set to 4800, n, 8, 1 and it is. I've removed and added the amp from AlphaRemote's device configuration list. I've switched USB ports and tried it on com port 6, 22 and 23 without any luck. In every case I can talk to the Alpha using Hyperterminal but not with AlphaRemote.
>
> What am I missing?

>
> Thanks.
>
> Everett
> KE5MMT
>

545. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 04:33:20 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 538 Message: 545

I just set-up AlphaMAX today on a new server, I run the station remotely via the Internet. Found that it works at both 4800 and 9600. You might try uninstalling the drivers and re-installing them. Be sure you have all other programs turned off. I noticed when loading up the drivers that some DLLs are used by other programs, stick with the most recent versions rather than loaded older versions.

----- Original Message -----
From: ke5mmt
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 11:21 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Need help with AlphaMax

Dave:

Thanks, everything checks out and is working fine.

Hyperterminal uses the port to talk to the Alpha without any problems; DDUtil also talks to the Alpha using the same port and controls it just fine too. AlphaRemote doesn't. I just can't figure out why.

Everett
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--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
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>
> Good Luck,
> dave
> wa3gin
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: ke5mmt
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 1:21 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax
>
>
>
> Hello:
>
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>
> What am I missing?
>
> Thanks.
>
> Everett
> KE5MMT
>

546. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 10:23:11 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 540 Message: 546

Hi Don,

I also have a old ETO 87a and i find that I need to hold the 2 buttons down
and wiggle them a bit !!! I guess mine just need a good clean but as they
are sealed switches I just put up with it..

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: donnyr7
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 9:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem

Hi,

I installed AlphaMax on an early Alpha 87A and it appears that everything works OK except
the front panel button Auto-on sequence.

I can activate Auto Tune from the Alpha Remote software and everything appears to work as
advertised. However, pressing the Enter and Load^ buttons on the front panel does not turn
Autotune on. The only way I can turn it on is from Aplha Remote. Once I turn it on
remotely, it will stay on until one of the tune or load buttons is touched.

Otherwise the tune and load buttons work fine.

The Alpha 87A is a great amp and AlphaMax is a great addition to its capabilities. If
anyone has had this problem, please let me know.

Thanks!

Don - K6IGP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.707 / Virus Database: 270.14.65/2502 - Release Date: 11/14/09 07:43:00

547. Re: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 10:28:17 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 538 Message: 547

Hi Everett,

Have you tried it with the program from HB9ZS ?
I find his program far better that what Alpha supply...

Here is the link:
http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: ke5mmt
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2009 6:21 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with AlphaMax

Hello:

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AlphaRemote ver. 1.1.9 is installed on my computer (Win XP 32 bit). I'm using a USB to Serial converter for the amp/computer connection.

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What am I missing?

Thanks.

Everett
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Version: 9.0.707 / Virus Database: 270.14.65/2502 - Release Date: 11/14/09 07:43:00

548. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 18:07:14 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 293 Message: 548

Hello Don,

I would suspect one of the padding capacitors. They can fail and the only visual sign is a tiny black speck on the body of the bad cap. With the amp on a higher band, unplugged and voltages discharged you can measure the two groups of 160m padding caps with a capacitance meter.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Sat, Nov 14, 2009 at 2:42 PM, donnyr7 <donnyr3@...> wrote
>
> I have an older Alpha 87A that works perfect on all bands except 160M.
> On 160, it cuts out with a fault 17 as soon as any drive is recognized. Its
> connected to a dummy load and it cuts out when the drive power reaches about
> 5 watts with fault 17.
>
> I've checked the bandswitches visually when in the 160 position, and they
> appear to be right on position.
>
> I ran GPIO and got 0,0,66,63 with about 60 watts drive on 160.
> I have Alphamax installed. I've visually checked the Pad Capacitors which
> appear normal, but have not removed them to test.
>
> Anyone have any suggestions or a similar experience?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Don - K6IGP
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, "Glenn AE0Q"
> <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
> >
> > Hello Al,
> >
> > The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> > bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> > appropriate level of output.
> >
> > If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment
> > and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> > Alpha if you need them.
> >
> > If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed
> > diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output
> > wattmeters.
> >

> > Here are some tests.
> >
> > 1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with
> > the amplifier.
> >
> > 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w
> > from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).
> >
> > 3) On the PC, type EXT ON.
> >
> > 4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command
> > reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each
> > time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w
> > output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the
> > wattmeter diodes are damaged.
> >
> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> >
> >
> > On Mon, Nov 10, 2008 at 10:21 AM, Al Waller, K3TKJ <k3tkj@...> wrote:
> > >
> > > I have an 87A that started giving me Fault code 17 often. The fault
> > > code is a bit vague in the manual. I have seen posts about "spikes"
> > > from some radios causing this. I tried another tranceiver even though
> > > the one I was using has worked fine for the last few years. No change.
> > > I transmitted into a dummy load to eliminate antenna problems No
> change.
> > > I replaced the tubes with another pair No Change.
> > >
> > > Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> > > happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800 watts.
> > > Below that power everything works as it used to.
> > >
> > > Any ideas what to try next?
> > >
> > > 73, Al K3TKJ
>
> __,_.___
> Reply to sender <donnyr3@...?subject=Re:+Alpha+87A+problem> | Reply
> to group <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:+Alpha+87A+problem>
> Messages in this topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/293;_ylc=X3oDMTMzZ
XJpbmZ0BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM1MzkEc2VjA2Z
0cgRzbGsDdnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMjU4MjM1MTUzBHRwY0lkAzI5Mw-->(
> 19)
> Recent Activity:
>
>
> Visit Your Group<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbXN0Ym5nBF9TAzk3MzU
5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEyNTgyM
zUxNTM-> Start

> a New Topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmdG5xcjA1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEyNTgyMzUxNTM->
> MARKETPLACE
>
> Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=14kdaajam/M=493064.12016295.13793596.10835568/D=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1258242353/L=/B=0lXEQUPDhCo-/J=1258235153882154/K=vllN1wbHEDs3XzaQM.MT7w/A=5898841/R=0/SIG=11kkq36go/*http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/parentingzone/>
> [image: Yahoo! Groups]<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcWVqaWFoBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTI1ODIzNTE1Mw-->
> Switch to: Text-Only<Alpha87a-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change+Delivery+Format:+Traditional>,
> Daily Digest<Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email+Delivery:+Digest>•
> Unsubscribe <Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms
> of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
> .
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

549. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 19:00:02 UTC
From: Donald Richtenburg
Topic: 540 Message: 549

Hi Paul,

I have tried holding an wiggeling the buttons, but autotune doesn't start. If I press 'return' first its LED lights and then while holding return, I press 'Load^' and the LED goes out. Thats the only result I can see.

Thanks for the suggestion!

Don - K6IGP

On Nov 15, 2009, at 2:23 AM, Paul Young wrote:

Hi Don,

I also have a old ETO 87a and i find that I need to hold the 2 buttons down
and wiggle them a bit !!! I guess mine just need a good clean but as they
are sealed switches I just put up with it..

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: donnyr7
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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem

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Otherwise the tune and load buttons work fine.

The Alpha 87A is a great amp and AlphaMax is a great addition to its capabilities. If anyone has had this problem, please let me know.

Thanks!

Don - K6IGP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.707 / Virus Database: 270.14.65/2502 - Release Date: 11/14/09 07:43:00

550. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 19:03:42 UTC
From: Donald Richtenburg
Topic: 293 Message: 550

Hi Glen,

I have measured the padders on the rear gang of the bandswitch (310PF) but not on the circuit board. I'll try that.

Many thanks,

Don - K6IGP

On Nov 15, 2009, at 10:07 AM, Glenn AE0Q wrote:

Hello Don,

I would suspect one of the padding capacitors. They can fail and the only visual sign is a tiny black speck on the body of the bad cap. With the amp on a higher band, unplugged and voltages discharged you can measure the two groups of 160m padding caps with a capacitance meter.

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Anyone have any suggestions or a similar experience?

Thanks,

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> Hello Al,
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> bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> appropriate level of output.
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> If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment
> and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> Alpha if you need them.
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> diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output
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> Here are some tests.
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> 1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with
> the amplifier.
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> 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w
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> > Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
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watts.
> > Below that power everything works as it used to.
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> > Any ideas what to try next?
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> > 73, Al K3TKJ

__,_.____
Reply to sender | Reply to group
Messages in this topic (19)
RECENT ACTIVITY:
Visit Your Group Start a New Topic
MARKETPLACE
Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home

Switch to: Text-Only, Daily Digest • Unsubscribe • Terms of Use
.

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

551. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-15 19:37:03 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 540 Message: 551

Hi Don,

did you try this in OPR mode?

73s Tadej S52X

2009/11/15 Donald Richtenburg <donnyr3@...>

>
>
> Hi Paul,
>
> I have tried holding an wiggeling the buttons, but autotune doesn't start.
> If I press 'return' first its LED lights and then while holding return, I
> press 'Load^' and the LED goes out. Thats the only result I can see.
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> *From:* donnyr7 <donnyr3@...>
> *Sent:* Saturday, November 14, 2009 9:57 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Operation Problem
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> 07:43:00
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>

--
Tadej Arcon

552. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-16 00:24:17 UTC
From: Donald Richtenburg
Topic: 293 Message: 552

Glenn,

The Capacitance meter reads reads as follows:

For the pad capacitors on the circuit board (front wafer of bandswitch) the readings are 610pf for 160M position and 460pf for the 80M position.

The rear wafer 160M position pad capacitors read 390pf

(readings were taken with the bandswitch in the 14MHz position)

Additionally, if I switch the amplifier on with the bandswitch already in the 160M position I get a hard fault 22. This only happens on 160 and only if I switch the power on in that position.

Amp works normally in all other band positions.

Many thanks for your help!

Don - K6IGP

On Nov 15, 2009, at 10:07 AM, Glenn AE0Q wrote:

Hello Don,

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> > Alpha Max on or off makes no difference, default or tuned it still
> > happens on SSB voice peaks at any power output above about 800
watts.
> > Below that power everything works as it used to.
> >
> > Any ideas what to try next?
> >
> > 73, Al K3TKJ

__,_.___
Reply to sender | Reply to group
Messages in this topic (19)
RECENT ACTIVITY:
Visit Your Group Start a New Topic
MARKETPLACE
Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home

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.

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

553. Alpha87a for sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-23 17:55:33 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 293 Message: 553

Hi

Like to sell my Alpha87A

If anyone need more information just mail me.

Price 4800 euro,-

Marco Pe2mc

Photo's I can send via mail.

554. bar graph display for home brew amp ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-28 19:53:03 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 554 Message: 554

Hi all,

I remember seeing a company that sell a display that looks
a bit like the one in the 87A.

Anyone know who the company is?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

555. Re: bar graph display for home brew amp ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-28 20:14:51 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 554 Message: 555

WD7S

http://home.earthlink.net/~wd7s/contents.htm

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> I remember seeing a company that sell a display that looks
> a bit like the one in the 87A.
>
> Anyone know who the company is?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

556. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: bar graph display for home brew amp ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-28 20:40:26 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 554 Message: 556

Many thanks, Thats what I was looking for.

Cheers

From: clydescott40
Sent: Saturday, November 28, 2009 8:14 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: bar graph display for home brew amp ?

WD7S

http://home.earthlink.net/~wd7s/contents.htm

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> I remember seeing a company that sell a display that looks
> a bit like the one in the 87A.
>
> Anyone know who the company is?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.709 / Virus Database: 270.14.85/2532 - Release Date: 11/28/09 07:45:00

557. Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-30 21:16:24 UTC
From: axelrodw
Topic: 557 Message: 557

I have an Alpha 87a with AlphaMax installed and working well. Every so often the amplifier faults out and traces to Fault 8, unknown or unlisted. Once it faults, it will not reset but immediately re-faults to error 8. If I turn the amp off and restart it it works OK until the next episode which could occur in minutes, hours, or days.

Any ideas?

Thanks and 73... Bill ND9E

558. Re: Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-11-30 21:43:14 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 557 Message: 558

Hi Bill:

Error 8 is listed in my manual as "transmit PIN Diode back bias below minimum required value key down". You may want to talk to tech support about your issue.

I have the same problem except my error is number 34-34. After several attempts, it goes into hard fault shutdown.. Grrrrr..!!

de W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "axelrodw" <bill@...> wrote:
>
> I have an Alpha 87a with AlphaMax installed and working well. Every so often the amplifier faults out and traces to Fault 8, unknown or unlisted. Once it faults, it will not reset but immediately re-faults to error 8. If I turn the amp off and restart it it works OK until the next episode which could occur in minutes, hours, or days.
>
> Any ideas?
>
> Thanks and 73... Bill ND9E
>

559. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-01 03:12:53 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 557 Message: 559

Hello Bill,

Here are our (Alpha/Power) instructions for troubleshooting an 87A Fault 8.
If you need more info please contact us via the Alpha web site,
www.rfconcepts.com .

73 - Glenn AE0Q
==========

Fault 8 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually
caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.

With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the resistance
from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short. If there is,
that will cause a Fault 8 because the -109 goes through the two resistors
mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small blue capacitor
from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little circuit board on the
chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it should be a high
resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is something shorting
to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also Check diode D1 (1N5404)
on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the chassis near the two resistors.

Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw of
the HV shorting spring to insulate it.

Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is
3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!

1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on the
chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts when
receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First remove the
end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke Board), turn
on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there is a bad
Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module). Reconnect coax
center to Safety Choke Board.

2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power
Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This
can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option
go to step 3.

3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v
there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad,
problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if
voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted
Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned
on/off by the +/-30v.

4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be
+30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
"diode check" function.

The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with
one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it,
they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses
a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.

There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be
checked if the other 4 are OK.

==========

On Mon, Nov 30, 2009 at 2:16 PM, axelrodw <bill@...> wrote:

>
>
> I have an Alpha 87a with AlphaMax installed and working well. Every so
> often the amplifier faults out and traces to Fault 8, unknown or unlisted.
> Once it faults, it will not reset but immediately re-faults to error 8. If I
> turn the amp off and restart it it works OK until the next episode which
> could occur in minutes, hours, or days.
>
> Any ideas?
>
> Thanks and 73... Bill ND9E
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

560. Amp shuts down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-04 11:17:11 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 560 Message: 560

While operating on 160 this morning, the amp just shuts totally down.. No fault indicated when I connect via the computer (sf - hf).

Doesn't seem to be a problem on any band except 160. Any ideas..??

W4CCS

561. Re: [Alpha87a] Amp shuts down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-04 12:19:07 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 560 Message: 561

Are the fusses OK?

73s Tadej S52X

2009/12/4 clydescott40 <w4ccs@...>

>
>
> While operating on 160 this morning, the amp just shuts totally down.. No
> fault indicated when I connect via the computer (sf - hf).
>
> Doesn't seem to be a problem on any band except 160. Any ideas..??
>
> W4CCS
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

562. Re: [Alpha87a] Amp shuts down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-04 12:53:31 UTC
From: W4CCS
Topic: 560 Message: 562

Yes, fuses OK.. It's as if you turned the main power off.. A very hard shutdown..
W4CCS

563. RE: [Alpha87a] Amp shuts down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-04 13:46:58 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 560 Message: 563

There are some protection diodes in the RF output side (see schematic) that had a problem on 160m if there was a temporary arch or high SWR on the antenna. They would over protect faulting the amp to shut-down without an error code. They are relatively easy to replace. Alpha is aware of the problem. Typically occurred on the older units. I had the same problem until I replaced them.

Best,

Dave

Wa3gin

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 7:19 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Amp shuts down

Are the fusses OK?

73s Tadej S52X

2009/12/4 clydescott40 <w4ccs@w4ccs. <mailto:w4ccs@...> com>

While operating on 160 this morning, the amp just shuts totally down.. No fault indicated when I connect via the computer (sf - hf).

Doesn't seem to be a problem on any band except 160. Any ideas..??

W4CCS

--
Tadej Arcon

564. Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-07 22:20:08 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 564 Message: 564

Hi All

Do have a Alpha87a

I did see some comment on the fault 17

I only have this on 30mtr. Can anybody help me.

Other bands are ok and working 100%

Marco pe2mc

565. Re: Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-08 18:19:20 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 564 Message: 565

Fault 17 can have a number of causes. The fault is reporting a "gain mismatch", which means the output gain is not the expected multiple of the input signal. This can be caused by a lot of things, and unfortunately the 87A firmware checks for this fault before it checks more informative conditions, like input overdrive.

That said, in my experience fault 17 on only one band is most likely caused by a problem with the antenna, feedline, output bandswitch, input bandswitch or output network. I'll leave it to Glenn to comment on any other possible causes.

First thing I'd do is make sure the 30m antenna and feedline are OK. If possible, put a dummy load on the feedline and see if you still get fault 17. If not, it's the antenna or feedline. If yes, then attach the dummy load directly to the amp with a short piece of coax and try again. If no fault 17, it's the feedline. If yes, then the most likely causes are the bandswitch contacts or a bad component in the output network.

CAUTION: ALWAYS UNPLUG THE AMP BEFORE REMOVING THE COVER. THERE ARE LETHAL VOLTAGES INSIDE. ALSO, THE INTERLOCKS MAY BLOW THE FUSES OR OTHER COMPONENTS IF THE AMP IS TURNED ON WITH THE COVER OFF.

The output bandswitch contacts could be dirty or misaligned. If they look clean, but possibly not in full contact, then there's a procedure you can use to confirm this is the source of the problem and to reprogram the firmware position. If the output bandswitch contacts are properly aligned, then it could be a bad contact in the 30m position of the input bandswitch. The input bandswitch would have to be replaced in that case. I did it to correct fault 17 on 10m caused by a bad input switch contact. The switch isn't terribly expensive and the replacement job isn't terribly difficult. But it's not something you want to do if you're not accustomed to repairing your own gear and working in tight places. You may be able to inspect the input bandswitch by removing the input compatment cover underneath the amp. Unfortunately, it's not always possible to visually detect bad contact on that type of bandswitch wafer.

The output network has two caps and an inductor. If it turns out that the output bandswitch contacts are OK and properly aligned, I would inspect the output network for any visible damage before getting into the input bandswitch. If the components look OK, you could desolder one end of the leads and measure the values.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@...m, "Marco van Dijk" <Marco@...> wrote:
>
> Hi All
>
>
>
> Do have a Alpha87a
>
> I did see some comment on the fault 17

>
> I only have this on 30mtr. Can anybody help me.
>
>
>
> Other bands are ok and working 100%
>
>
>
> Marco pe2mc
>

566. Re:Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-08 18:49:10 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 564 Message: 566

I am not sure, but it may be out of range for the internal circuits of the alpha 87a. I never use mine on 30 m, as at least in the USA there is a 200 watt limit so why bother with the amp??

Tom

N6AJR

567. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-08 20:29:26 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 564 Message: 567

Hello Marco,
Alpha 87A 17m Testing Bandswitch

A problem with the tuning on only one band can be caused by the bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to 30m. Try transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on). Then manually select a higher band, then go to 30m, and try transmitting again. If the tuning changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.

I can send you instructions to do it, you will need to have a computer communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch. I can send instructions for connecting the PC if you need them.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Dec 7, 2009 at 3:20 PM, Marco van Dijk <Marco@...> wrote:

>
>
> Hi All
>
> Do have a Alpha87a
>
> I did see some comment on the fault 17
>
> I only have this on 30mtr. Can anybody help me.
>
> Other bands are ok and working 100%
>
> Marco pe2mc
>
>
> Rply to sender <marco@...?subject=Fault+17+87A> | Reply to
group<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Fault+17+87A>
> Messages in this topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/564;_ylc=X3oDMTMza
Ww1cW8zBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM1NjQEc2VjA2Z
0cgRzbGsDdnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMjYwMjI0NDE5BHRwY0lkAzU2NA-->(
> 1)
> Recent Activity:
>
> - New Files<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files;_ylc=X3oDMTJoNzY1ZGdlBF9TAzk3Mz
U5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2ZmlsZXMEc3RpbWUDMTI2
MDIyNDQxOQ-->
> 1

>
> Visit Your Group<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbThlcWJiBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEyNjAyMjQ0MTk-> Start
> a New Topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmdm1iamxzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEyNjAyMjQ0MTk->
> MARKETPLACE
>
> Going Green: Your Yahoo! Groups resource for green living<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=14kfjaagp/M=493064.13814333.13821539.13298430/D=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1260231619/L=/B=h5T4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5922843/R=0/SIG=11ckn2mo6/*http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/green/>
> ----------
>
> Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=14kurh0pk/M=493064.13814537.13821737.10835568/D=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1260231619/L=/B=iJT4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5898841/R=0/SIG=11kkq36go/*http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/parentingzone/>
> [image: Yahoo! Groups]<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZHAyM2c3BF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTI2MDIyNDQxOQ-->
> Switch to: Text-Only<Alpha87a-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change+Delivery+Format:+Traditional>,
> Daily Digest<Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email+Delivery:+Digest>•
> Unsubscribe <Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms
> of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
> .
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

568. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-09 18:49:00 UTC
From: Marco van Dijk
Topic: 564 Message: 568
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Tnx all for the help

It's a mismatch of the motor. It's only 30mtr.. I'm going to figure it out how to solve this problem.

Marco pe2mc

Van: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] Namens Glenn AE0Q
Verzonden: dinsdag 8 december 2009 21:29
Aan: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Onderwerp: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 87A

Hello Marco,

A problem with the tuning on only one band can be caused by the bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to 30m. Try transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on). Then manually select a higher band, then go to 30m, and try transmitting again. If the tuning changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.

I can send you instructions to do it, you will need to have a computer communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch. I can send instructions for connecting the PC if you need them.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Dec 7, 2009 at 3:20 PM, Marco van Dijk <Marco@...> wrote:

Hi All

Do have a Alpha87a

I did see some comment on the fault 17

I only have this on 30mtr. Can anybody help me.

Other bands are ok and working 100%

Marco pe2mc

Rply to <mailto:marco@...?subject=Fault+17+87A> sender | Reply <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Fault+17+87A> to group

Messages in this topic <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/564;_ylc=X3oDMTMzaWw1cW8zBF9

TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM1NjQEc2V
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Recent Activity:

*
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files;_ylc=X3oDMTJoNzY1ZGdlBF9TAzk3M
zU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2ZmlsZ
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lAzEyNjAyMjQ0MTk-> Visit Your Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmdm1iamxzBF9TAzk3Mz
U5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBH
N0aW1lAzEyNjAyMjQ0MTk-> Start a New Topic

MARKETPLACE

Going Green: Your Yahoo! Groups resource for green living
<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=14kfjaagp/M=493064.13814333.13821539.13298430/D
=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1260231619/L=/B=h5T4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224
419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5922843/R=0/SIG=11ckn2mo6/*http:/advisi
on.webevents.yahoo.com/green/>

_____

Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home
<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=14kurh0pk/M=493064.13814537.13821737.10835568/D
=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1260231619/L=/B=iJT4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224
419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5898841/R=0/SIG=11kkq36go/*http:/advisi
on.webevents.yahoo.com/parentingzone/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZHAyM2c3BF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTI2MDIyNDQxO
Q--> Fout! Bestandsnaam niet opgegeven.

Switch to:
<mailto:Alpha87a-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change+Delivery+Format:
+Traditional> Text-Only,
<mailto:Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email+Delivery:+Digest>
Daily Digest .
<mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe>
Unsubscribe . <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/> Terms of Use

.

Afbeelding verwijderd door afzender. Web Bug from src

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4670 (20091208) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4670 (20091208) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4673 (20091209) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

569. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-09 19:55:46 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 564 Message: 569
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Marco,

There is a specific location in the microprocessor memory that stores the bandswitch position. You only need to change that position value to adjust the position on a band (there is a value stored for each band).

Alpha 87A 17m Bandswitch Alignment

The memory address for the 30m bandswitch position is B7BE .

From the terminal program type:

EXT ON (turns on 'factory mode')
DM B7BE (write down first two digits)
W B7C0 xx (xx = original hexadecimal number up or down 2)

If it works when you come from a lower band, increment the number. If it works coming from higher band, decrement the number.

When done type:
EXT OFF

---

memory locations for the bandswitch positions:

160m b7bb
80m b7bc
40m b7bd
30m b7be
20m b7bf
17m b7c0
15m b7c1
12m b7c2
10m b7c3

---

73 - Glenn AE0Q

Alpha Radio Products

(now RF Concepts)

On Wed, Dec 9, 2009 at 11:49 AM, Marco van Dijk <Marco@...> wrote:

>
>

> Tnx all for the help
>
> It’s a mismatch of the motor. It’s only 30mtr.. I’m going to figure it out
> how to solve this problem.
>
> Marco pe2mc
>
> *Van:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *Namens
> *Glenn AE0Q
> *Verzonden:* dinsdag 8 december 2009 21:29
> *Aan:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Onderwerp:* Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 87A
>
> Hello Marco,
>
> A problem with the tuning on only one band can be caused by the
> bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this,
> first manually select a lower band, then go to 30m. Try transmitting and
> tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press
> ENTER and then press the segment that you are on). Then manually select a
> higher band, then go to 30m, and try transmitting again. If the tuning
> changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.
>
> I can send you instructions to do it, you will need to have a computer
> communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch. I can
> send instructions for connecting the PC if you need them.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>
>
> On Mon, Dec 7, 2009 at 3:20 PM, Marco van Dijk <Marco@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> Hi All
>
> Do have a Alpha87a
>
> I did see some comment on the fault 17
>
> I only have this on 30mtr. Can anybody help me.
>
> Other bands are ok and working 100%
>
> Marco pe2mc
>
>
>
> Rply to *sender* <marco@...?subject=Fault+17+87A> | Reply to

group<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Fault+17+87A>
>
> Messages in this topic<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/564;_ylc=X3oDMTMza
Ww1cW8zBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM1NjQEc2VjA2Z
0cgRzbGsDdnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMjYwMjI0NDE5BHRwY0lkAzU2NA-->(
> *1*)
>
> *Recent Activity:*
>
> - *New Files<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files;_ylc=X3oDMTJoNzY1ZGdlBF9TAzk3M
zU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2ZmlsZXMEc3RpbWUDMTI
2MDIyNDQxOQ-->
> 1 *
>
> Visit Your Group<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbThlcWJiBF9TAzk3MzU
5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEyNjAyM
jQ0MTk->
> *Start a New Topic*<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmdm1iamxzBF9
TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lA
zEyNjAyMjQ0MTk->
>
> *MARKETPLACE*
>
> *Going Green: Your Yahoo! Groups resource for green living<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG=1
4kfjaagp/M=493064.13814333.13821539.13298430/D=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=126023
1619/L=/B=h5T4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5922843/R=0/SIG=11ckn
2mo6/*http:/advision.webevents.yahoo.com/green/>
> *
> *
> ------------------------------
> *
>
> *Parenting Zone: Your community resource for family and home<http://us.ard.yahoo.com/SIG
=14kurh0pk/M=493064.13814537.13821737.10835568/D=groups/S=1705063108:MKP1/Y=YAHOO/EXP=1260
231619/L=/B=iJT4J0SO5.Y-/J=1260224419831131/K=vnfX7ymz2xVy4OB2v7CCaA/A=5898841/R=0/SIG=11k
kq36go/*http:/advision.webevents.yahoo.com/parentingzone/>
> *
>
> *Fout! Bestandsnaam niet opgegeven.*<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZHAyM2c3BF9TA
zk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTI
2MDIyNDQxOQ-->
>
> Switch to: Text-Only<Alpha87a-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change+Delivery+Format
:+Traditional>,
> Daily Digest<Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email+Delivery:+Digest>•
> Unsubscribe <Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms
> of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
>
> .
>
> [image: Afbeelding verwijderd door afzender. Web Bug from src]

```
>
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>
>
```

570. Alpha remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-16 00:42:01 UTC
From: Nick Cropper
Topic: 570 Message: 570

I need the Alpha remote software - I have the original copy on a 3-1/2" disk but my new computer does not have a drive for it. Thought I might have it on a CD somewhere but no luck finding it. Is there a download somewhere on the net?

Nick - K5LC

571. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-16 00:55:12 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 570 Message: 571

http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/software.asp

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Nick Cropper
Sent: December 15, 2009 18:42
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software

I need the Alpha remote software - I have the original copy on a 3-1/2" disk but my new computer does not have a drive for it. Thought I might have it on a CD somewhere but no luck finding it. Is there a download somewhere on the net?

Nick - K5LC

572. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-16 00:54:29 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 570 Message: 572

You can copy the disk to USB flash stick memory at your local library...

----- Original Message -----
From: Nick Cropper
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2009 7:42 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software

I need the Alpha remote software - I have the original copy on a 3-1/2" disk but my new computer does not have a drive for it. Thought I might have it on a CD somewhere but no luck finding it. Is there a download somewhere on the net?

Nick - K5LC

573. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-16 06:44:16 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 570 Message: 573

You can download AlphaRemote software from our web site:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/software.asp

73 - Glenn AE0Q

>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Nick Cropper <ncropper@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Sent:* Tuesday, December 15, 2009 7:42 PM
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Alpha remote software
>
> I need the Alpha remote software - I have the original copy on a 3-1/2"
> disk but my new computer does not have a drive for it. Thought I might have
> it on a CD somewhere but no luck finding it. Is there a download somewhere
> on the net?
>
> Nick - K5LC
>
> __._,_.__
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

574. A plug for a great vendor!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2009-12-30 01:51:44 UTC
From: k2waltk
Topic: 574 Message: 574

To: The Alpha 87a Group:

The folks at Alpha (RF Concepts) are absolutely the best.
Just wanted to share my positive experience with the
user community. A class act with people who really
care, something a lot of vendors today have forgotten
how to deliver.

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

From: RF Concepts, LLC. [mailto:support@...]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 8:38 PM

<http://content.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=2&c=1065250&h=581b54e29a
cf66208c6d>

Message History
Hi Glenn,

Thanx so much for helping me today with my Fault 99 issues.
The instructions you provided were easy to follow, concise,
and above all, they worked and fixed the problem. You, Cary (sp?)
and all the folks at RF Concepts deserve a big round of
applause. Bravo! This is the first opportunity I had dealing
with y'all and it was a real pleasure. Everything I've read on the
reflectors about your professionalism, your attention to a customer's
needs and the courtesy with which you deliver your support is
confirmed! Outstanding job!

Regards,

Walt Kornienko - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

---

size=1 width="100%" noshade color="#cccccc" align=center>

RF Concepts, LLC. is powered by <http://www.netsuite.com/> NetSuite - One
System. No Limits.

575. Alphamax installation issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-03 21:35:10 UTC
From: kk2ed@comcast.net
Topic: 575 Message: 575

Good Evening,

I recently purchased an Alpha 87A, and the original purchaser provided me with the Alphamax upgrade kit, which Alpha sent him, but he never installed. It consists of a PAL (U9) and an eprom (U7) which are to be changed out. The new eprom is labled "V1P00-1", while the old one is labeled 108G". I replaced the PAL and eprom, and installed the berg jumper, as per the included instructions. However, when completed, the amplifier hard faults off within 10 seconds of power up.

I immediately pulled the new eprom, and reinstalled the original eprom, then removed the new berg jumper, and re-assembled the amp. It works perfectly with the old eprom once again. As per the instructions, the new PAL can remain in place if/when reverting to the older software eprom.

Just to be sure, I tried the procedure again, with the same results. The worst part is the eprom's location, so it requires pulling the front panel each time!

The only thing I can guess is that the eprom lost some "bits" from sitting in a box the past 9 years or so. Or, the eprom was programmed improperly from the get-go.

I have eprom burning equipment here in my shop, so burning another eprom (or erasing/re-burning this one) would not be an issue, but the bin image file is not available online anywhere as far as I can tell. Therefore, even if I read the current eprom I have in my hands, I can't verify it's contents.

Of course, this had to happen on a weekend, so I can't even call Alpha (now RFC) until Monday.

Would anyone happen to have an image of the 87A's Alphamax-capable eprom contents, or at least know the CRC checksum? My V1.00AT eprom shows a checksum of FE46.

Also, is the V1.00-AT version (as per the label "V1P00-1" on the supplied eprom) the latest version?

Anyone else experience a similar situation?

Thanks,

Eric

K2WD

576. RE: [Alpha87a] Alphamax installation issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-03 22:44:04 UTC
From: Jim& Nancy Denneny
Topic: 575 Message: 576

Eric

Wish I could help. Sounds like a badly configured eprom. I went through same procedure as you did when I bought my used 87A without any issues. Call Glenn AE0Q on Monday.

73

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kk2ed@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2010 1:35 PM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alphamax installation issue

Good Evening,

I recently purchased an Alpha 87A, and the original purchaser provided me with the Alphamax upgrade kit, which Alpha sent him, but he never installed. It consists of a PAL (U9) and an eprom (U7) which are to be changed out. The new eprom is labled "V1P00-1", while the old one is labeled 108G". I replaced the PAL and eprom, and installed the berg jumper, as per the included instructions. However, when completed, the amplifier hard faults off within 10 seconds of power up.

I immediately pulled the new eprom, and reinstalled the original eprom, then removed the new berg jumper, and re-assembled the amp. It works perfectly with the old eprom once again. As per the instructions, the new PAL can remain in place if/when reverting to the older software eprom.

Just to be sure, I tried the procedure again, with the same results. The worst part is the eprom's location, so it requires pulling the front panel each time!

The only thing I can guess is that the eprom lost some "bits" from sitting in a box the past 9 years or so. Or, the eprom was programmed improperly from the get-go.

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Of course, this had to happen on a weekend, so I can't even call Alpha (now RFC) until Monday.

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Also, is the V1.00-AT version (as per the label "V1P00-1" on the supplied eprom) the latest version?

Anyone else experience a similar situation?

Thanks,

Eric

K2WD

577. Alpha Amp Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-04 18:59:03 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 577 Message: 577

I would like to get in touch with other members who have had amplifier tubes in their Alpha 87A become aged and in need of replacement. My amplfier tubes are nearly 18 years old now and have been working just fine until recently. They will still output 1.5KW at fairly low drive power (approx 60W), but the grid current is now climbing up to around 75-100mA at 1.5Kw output. I tried changing the load setting and retuning at each change, but was unable to change things much. Given the age of the tubes, it seems likely that the tubes are finally showing their age. I am able to operate it fine at around 1.2KW to keep the grid current in the green LED range (approx 70mA), but fear that might change in the near future.

Communcations from other owners who have experienced similar problems would be appreciated. Please let me know what your observations/experiences were, how you confirmed your findings, and what you did about it. If you replaced the tubes, did you buy them from Alpha, or from some place like RF Parts. Your choice as to whether you provide your responses on the reflector, or directly to me.

John Owens - N7TK

578. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Amp Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-04 19:13:22 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 577 Message: 578

John, check to see if this is the case on all bands. If you have alphamax, make sure it's on, and the light is blinking as it should in alphamax mode.

If it's NOT occurring on all bands, I suggest that there may be a change in your antenna system that's providing a mismatch. If you see the high-grid drive behavior with a 50 ohm dummy load with default settings for the amp, that would be a data point too.

Apparently another tell for weakening tubes is diminishing output/grid current under multi-second key down conditions.

I have a vertical that's held up by a line between two trees, and when it's windy, the load can change from 1.0:1 to 2.5:1 rapidly. When alphamax is on, it keeps up by adjusting the amp. From my small and windowless shack, I can tell if it's windy outside if the amp retunes in the middle of a QSO.

I have always heard "full power output with 20 watts drive" but have not experienced that with my 87a with either the original tubes, nor the USED medical pulls I purchased from eBay as preemptive replacements. It takes about 53 watts to get to 1450 on 160m, 42 watts on 20m, etc.

Brian N9ADG

--- On Mon, 1/4/10, jcowens1@... <jcowens1@...> wrote:

From: jcowens1@... <jcowens1@...>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha Amp Tubes
To: "Alpha 87A User Group" <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Monday, January 4, 2010, 10:59 AM

#yiv467171473 p {margin:0;}

I would like to get in touch with other members who have had amplifier tubes in their Alpha 87A become aged and in need of replacement. My amplfier tubes are nearly 18 years old now and have been working just fine until recently. They will still output 1.5KW at fairly low drive power (approx 60W), but the grid current is now climbing up to around 75-100mA at 1.5Kw output. I tried changing the load setting and retuning at each change, but was unable to change things much. Given the age of the tubes, it seems likely that the tubes are finally showing their age. I am able to operate it fine at around 1.2KW to keep the grid current in the green LED range (approx 70mA), but fear that might change in the near future.

Communcations from other owners who have experienced similar problems would be appreciated. Please let me know what your observations/experiences were, how you confirmed your findings, and what you did about it. If you replaced the tubes, did you buy them from Alpha, or from some place like RF Parts. Your choice as to whether you provide your responses on the reflector, or directly to me.

John Owens - N7TK

579. Fwd: Alpha Monthly News Letter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-11 19:32:37 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 579 Message: 579

Anyone got this newsletter?

73s Tadej S52X

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: RF Concepts <sales@...>
Date: 2010/1/11
Subject: Alpha Monthly News Letter
To: tadej.arcon@...

[image: Newletter Header] *ALPHA NEWSLETTER* -*What's going
on at RF Concepts?
-Molly explains the Alpha Trade Up program.
-Gordon shares some of his 9500 design choices.
* *January 2010
* *Featured Product
*
[image: 9500 Square]
The Alpha 9500 is our Flagship Product. It's an Autotuning, Full Legal
Limit, 3CX1500A7 based Linear Amplifier that delivers key down performance
in all modes with NO time limit. Check it out at www.rfconcepts.com
*Our Website Link
*
RF Concepts Website<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102933504781&s=2269&e=0013GtRolA8kBRtEqp-XVW
WBH9p_PkRTVg0MyptbNTV7KgEmTIqq8JF-TL8WduR6ea2mudpz613YwGf8ACbsLFaDQSK79C3aFYE_dftZkwEAnMIW
dIMXJVZsg==>
Newsletter Signup<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>
* Letter from the President *
[image: 8410 Inside 01]As many of you know, in September 2009, RF Concepts
acquired the assets of Alpha Radio Products. It's been about four months
since the acquisition and we've made some great progress. We've been
burning the midnight oil and are happy to report that all of the amplifiers
that were in the backlog when we acquired the assets have been shipped to
their customers, along with many of the orders we took through November. We
thought that we would be out of our backlog situation and shipping from
stock by now, but orders for both our award winning, manual tune Alpha 8410
amplifier, and the automatic tune, flagship Alpha 9500 amplifier have been
brisk. Orders placed today will ship within 4 weeks and we're still working
hard to get to "IN STOCK" status on these products.

Anyone that has received an Alpha 9500 should know that we've (at last)
completed the manual, block diagram, and schematics, and as soon as it's
printed and bound, everyone will get a copy in the mail. It's available for
download as a pdf now. If you're interested, check our website or send an
email to sales@... and ask for a copy.

A lot of people are waiting for their Wattmeters and Dummy Loads. These have not been our top priority, but we're actively working on them now (and have been for a short time). Hang in there - We've kitted both the 45xx Wattmeters and the 2100 Dummy Loads and will have them completed in the next few weeks. We've scheduled enough of these products in the factory that they'll be in stock, and we hope to keep it that way.

We're also working on a new website, which will be fully integrated with our sales order system and it should be online shortly.

We're planning a monthly newsletter with different catagories and articles. Molly Hardman, Vice President of Sales, and Gordon Hardman, Vice President of Engineering will both be writing articles. I hope you'll enjoy their comments.

If there's anything I can do, please don't hesitate to call or email me. We're so excited with what's going on at RF Concepts.

That's all for now,

Steve Farkas, WA2NFR
President

*Molly's World
- Trade Ups * [image: WØMOM]
Hi - Molly Hardman, W0MOM here. You should see what's going on at RF Concepts! Over the past few months I've had a chance to turn over most of the operational aspects of the business, allowing me to focus on Sales and Customer Service. We've been building and repairing at an amazing pace to catch up and keep up with the demand. Service turnaround is down to about 2 weeks (some longer if we're waiting for parts), and we're working to bring that down to less than a week. Sales have been strong! What a difference it makes when you've got a bit of capital to work with.....

An increasingly popular way to purchase a new Alpha amplifier is to take advantage of our trade-in program. We accept older Alpha amplifiers in trade for a partial payment towards a new Alpha 9500 or Alpha 8410. At this time we are accepting the Alpha 91b, 99, 89, 8100 or 87A in trade towards a new amp. The process is pretty simple. Call me at 303-473-9232 and we can discuss the trade in value for your amp. If you're interested in purchasing one of our new amps, you put a small deposit on the amp to make sure you have a position on our list. About 2 weeks before your new amp is ready to ship, we will contact you so that you can send in your old unit for our evaluation and once we have received it and tested it we'll be ready to ship out your new amplifier.

Alternatively, you can contact us and let us know that you are interested in a possible trade. We will issue an RA number, and when your amplifier is received in Boulder at our lab, we will evaluate it following the guidelines in our used amp inspection service. Once that is completed, we will contact you with a trade-in value - at that time you can decide whether or not to accept the offer. If you decide to proceed with the trade, we will waive the inspection fee and put your name on the new amplifier list - using your

trade amplifier as your deposit.

Either way you get a new amplifier, with a new 4 year warranty.

Remember, we fix ALL of the legacy Alpha amplifiers. Many of the old parts are in stock, and we know where to find the rest. Lead times were long, but they're much shorter now, and we're going to keep them that way.

73's, Molly Hardman, W0MOM

Vice President of Sales, RF Concepts

*Gordon's Desk
- Some Background on Design Choices Made in the Alpha 9500 * [image: Small Gordon Small]
The Alpha 77 and Alpha 87a are probably the two Alpha amplifiers that most changed the world of HF linears. The 77, with it's big single (or in a some caes double) 8877 tube is still loved by owners, and if one comes on the used market, it is snapped up quickly. The 87a, with its auto-tune features and microprocessor control was revolutionary. Around 1,500 of the 87a amplifiers were produced before the decision was made to replace it with a newer product. This decision to halt 87a production was driven by the realization that the technology in the control circuitry was getting seriously behind the state of the art. The hand-assembled through-hole technology resulted in a cost structure that was getting out of hand along with some parts becoming hard to find. Finally, the reliability of that many parts was going to be less than a more highly integrated design that would be possible with current technology. So about 15 years after the design for the 87a was started, we started in on a new design. One final thing that made the change seem like a good idea was that the price of the 3CX800A tubes had skyrocketed. A single 8877, on the other hand, could be had for about two-thirds the price of a pair of 3CX800As. In addition, imported versions of the 8877 were just becoming available, and promised an even lower cost of tubing an amp if they would prove to meet our requirements.

In starting the new design, we decided to keep what was still working well, and use that as a starting point. So we did not start with the classic blank sheet of paper. Once the decision to use a single 8877 was made, we looked at the 87a automatic-tune tank circuit. This works very well- we had switched to a new variable capacitor supplier, and the stepper-motors that drove the capacitors and the bandswitch were fine. So the tank circuit of the new amplifier, soon to become known as the 9500, was lifted more-or-less complete from the 87a. The biggest change was that we had to increase the voltage rating on the "tune" capacitor, since the 8877 likes to work at around 3.5kV or so, which was more than the 3kV or less on the 87a. The power transformer in the 87a was a unique design. As just mentioned, we needed more voltage for the 8877, and this transformer did not look like a good choice. We realized that with a few minor tweaks, the transformer from our tetrode line of amplifiers could be made to work in the new amplifier, by placing the screen supply (500V) in series with the plate supply (3kV), to get the desired 3.5kV. By adding a tap on the heater supply, and checking

the engineering with our transformer manufacturer, we had something that was completely satisfactory for the 9500 and the tetrode amplifiers.

With these top-level choices made, the rest of the design was tackled. A major early objective was to radically simplify the wiring harness as compared to the 87a. After considering some alternatives, the decision was made to use the "Inter-Integrated-Cirucit" bus, commonly kown as IIC or I2C. This bus was developed by Philips in Europe for the same reason- to simplify the wiring of major domestic electronics appliances such as televisions. It is a nice solution- it uses two "wired OR" lines along with ground, and had transmission speeds that would be fast enough for our needs. It was not clear, however, if this could be made to work in the high-RF environment of a compact linear amplifier like the 9500. But a few "kinks" on the basic way I2C was intended to be used solved the problems. First, we use an auxiliary driver IC made by Philips, that allows much greater current drive than the standard I2C parts. This IC was originally intended to increase the length of line connecting bus components, but we realized it could also be used to allow more filtering on the lines to kill RF without overly distorting the I2C bus signals. Bus errors are still encountered, but these are dealt with by adding a so-called horizontal parity check to each block of data that is transferred. Blocks with errors are simply discarded. Since the amplifier "heartbeat" is 100 times per second, there is enormous redundancy in the data going over the bus every 10msec. Losing an occasional block results in inconsequential effects on performance, since the data is repeated 10ms later. The final piece of the puzzle was the right choice of ribbon cable to connect the bus to all the parts of the amplifier where it was needed. We chose a shielded form of ribbon cable and the shield is grounded wherever a connector is needed.

With a reliable way for parts of the amplifier to talk to each other, the major blocks were defined, and each one was designed around its' own microprocessor. There are five of these- the master controller board, and then four slaves: the power supply stack, the user interface, the stepper motor driver and a sound generator. Each one of these slaves can take care of it's own set of well-defined, logically-grouped tasks, and every 10ms exchange important data with the master controller. This architecture has numerous advantages. First, each part of the amplifier can be tested without the need to even have the I2C bus running. Also, the slaves can take action on their own, if this is appropriate. This can help the reliability and safety of the amplifier. For instance, the power supply slave can cut the power off for the entire amplifier if it fails to get I2C communications from the master for an extended period of time. Similarly, the stepper motor slave takes care of locating "zero" for the capacitors, reading the position of the bandswitch etc. It only needs to receive a pair of numbers from the master indicating the position of the tune and load capacitors, and it moves them to the new setting, without the need for further action from the master.

The 9500 was designed with fully remote operation in mind, and for this (and other) reasons, four output connectors were provided. This allows simplification in wiring of a remote station. Also, both USB and RS232

interfaces were provided to allow flexibility in connecting to a control computer. All front panel functions can be executed from a control computer.

The design has proven a success, combining the best features of the 77 and the 87a with a modern bus architecture and a distributed multi-tasking software system. This is a lot like a modern car, which has a gasoline or diesel engine with roots going back almost a century, but also has a dozen or more microprocessors communicating over a bus. Both are representative of the state of the art in their respective fields, driven by considerations of cost, quality, performance, safety and reliability.

Next month we'll talk about Mains supply.

Gordon Hardman, W0RUN
Thanks to all of our Alpha customers and enthusiasts. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.

marketing@...
Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1102933504781>
[image: Safe Unsubscribe]<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW3qMzvXfpnJJCwBT2cKh6_w%3D%3D&p=un>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by sales@....
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW3qMzvXfpnJJCwBT2cKh6_w%3D%3D&p=oo>|
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW3qMzvXfpnJJCwBT2cKh6_w%3D%3D&p=un>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
Email Marketing <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>by <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>
RF Concepts LLC | 6185 Arapahoe Road | Boulder | CO | 80303

--
Tadej Arcon

580. New Alpha mailing list

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-01-11 19:35:47 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 580 Message: 580

Hi all,

Today I got the first of a monthly news letter form Alpha.
I found it very good.

If you would like to sign up, use this link:
http://www.visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3otnYU-jYQzmQ%3D%3D

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

581. Blowing SWR Bridge Diodes - 1N5711

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-14 16:52:58 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 581 Message: 581

A few years ago I sent back my 87a to Alpha for a problem I was seeing with the amp faulting on low or excessive gain. They had replaced the 1N5711 swr bridge diodes on the input. Since then I have had to replace these diodes 3 times...and again last night I am seeing the same faults. One indicator of this happening is the TUNE indicator no longer works.

My question...has anyone else seen this issue? Ideas on what's creating the problem? Is there an updated diode from the 1N5711 that I can use? Also, the diodes that are shorting are the input SWR bridge....not the output sensor 1N5711's.

Thanks...

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

582. tube replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-19 18:58:22 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 582 Message: 582

Hi all,

My 87a is working fine but about 2 years ago I got a new pair of "PX" tubes. I understand its not good to leave them unused so if I put them in my amp, is there anything I need to do ? These are the pulse type...

I was going to cycle them each year ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

583. Re: tube replacement

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-20 01:19:38 UTC
From: JackH
Topic: 582 Message: 583

Hi Paul
Molly at Alpha says they do not recommend the PX because of plate voltage. She also states that, there is not a problem leaving tubes on the shelf.
For more info contact Molly at RF Concepts.

Jack W9MU

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> My 87a is working fine but about 2 years ago I got a new pair
> of "PX" tubes. I understand its not good to leave them unused
> so if I put them in my amp, is there anything I need to do ?
> These are the pulse type...
>
> I was going to cycle them each year ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>

584. amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-20 13:56:14 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 584 Message: 584

Hi all,
today when i tried to turn my amp on i just hear a click
and nothing else. I remember when i turned it off yesterday
there seemed to be a surge as the light in shack flickerd..

I have connected the computer and the last 2 soft faults are
showing as error 0 ?

Also the amp keeps sending "Amplifier is off" about every
3 secs to the term program.

hard faults are 22 so after trying to turn on a few times
it has faulted 99

when I first tried to put amp into factory mode it wen ok
but when trying to enter the reset codes got a "syntax error"

Now when I try to get into facrory mode it only replys with
"syntax error"

where to go next ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
Skype: paul.g0hwc

585. Re: amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-20 17:58:40 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 584 Message: 585

** UPDATE **

I have now managed to do a full reset, It turned out to be
my term program. So now I need to fix the fault 22
Control system fault D/A feedback "0" not working

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
Skype: paul.g0hwc

586. Re: amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-20 18:47:12 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 584 Message: 586

** Update 2 **

I found this info:

Fault 22 is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse. It is under the top cover, immediately to the left of the terminal strip for selecting the AC voltage. They sometimes blow after a number of years of use.

If it blows again right away, it may indicate a bad tube or another problem.

==========
Well mine was blown but after replacing it it blew again
so I need to look deeper. It looks like I spoke too soon
when I asked the question yesterday about changing my tubes !

I know many users are using the "Pulse" tubes without any problems
can I just drop them in or do I need to do any adjustments?

Paul G0HWC

587. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-22 02:59:35 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 584 Message: 587

Hi Paul,

we have a pair of 3cpx1500a7 pulse tubes in Alpha 77sx. They works pretty well, but requires more drive to reach the same power output levels compared to the original tubes.

I know Tom DK3EE who has often for sale some good Eimac 3cx800a7. I bough from him few years old 3cpx1500a7 tubes at reasonable price.

I am sorry for your 87a, but keep us informed.

73s, GL Tadej S52X

2010/2/20 Paul <paul@...>

```
>
>
> ** Update 2 **
>
> I found this info:
>
> Fault 22 is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse. It is under
> the top cover, immediately to the left of the terminal strip for
> selecting the AC voltage. They sometimes blow after a number of years
> of use.
>
> If it blows again right away, it may indicate a bad tube or another
> problem.
>
> ==========
> Well mine was blown but after replacing it it blew again
> so I need to look deeper. It looks like I spoke too soon
> when I asked the question yesterday about changing my tubes !
>
> I know many users are using the "Pulse" tubes without any problems
> can I just drop them in or do I need to do any adjustments?
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
>
>
```

--

Tadej Arcon
---

588. parts needed UK

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-02-22 18:51:56 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 588 Message: 588

Hi all,

After a chat with Alpha about my faulty 87a the fault on my amp has
been tracked down to the 2x MOV's on the AC modulethe part number
in the parts list is:
THERMISTOR NTC 5@ 25*C (AC MODULE) RXX-X109 R9,R10

Could anyone point me where I could get 2 of these in the UK ?

I must say the help I got from the guys at Alpha "RF concepts"
was outstanding.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

589. Clean your amp!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-09 16:43:11 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 589 Message: 589
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hello Group,

look at the attached pictures what happens when the air flow is hardly obstructed. This are tubes from an Alpha 91b being in the smoking shack for 2 years, "fortunately" just the tubes died.

My amps are not in the smoking area, but I do clean them once a year.

73s,
--
Tadej S52X

590. Clean your amp!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-09 16:43:55 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 589 Message: 590

Hello Group,

look at the attached pictures what happens when the air flow is hardly obstructed. This are tubes from an Alpha 91b being in the smoking shack for 2 years, "fortunately" just the tubes died.

My amps are not in the smoking area, but I do clean them once a year.

73s,
--
Tadej S52X

591. 87A Filure Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-10 18:08:51 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 591 Message: 591

I experienced a failure on my Alpha 87A this morning. When I powered up the unit, it immediately powered down. The next time I powered it up, the FAULT lamp was lit and the band switch lights scrolled back and forth. The manual says this is a Hard Failure related to the Control System where the bandswitch is not moving. Apparently this indicates that during the statup procedure, commands are sent to the band switches and if they do not respond properly, it results in this failure.

If anyone has experience a similar failure, please let me know how how you recovered from the problem. I do intend ot call Alpha, but wanted to talk the folks on the street to get as much info as I can before doing that. Your feedback would be apprecaited.

John Owens - N7TK

592. Alpha 87A Failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-10 18:49:13 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 592 Message: 592

The problem outlined below in a previous email has at least been temporarily resolved. Turns out that if you don't allow a 30 second time period after the failure is detected and displayed as a FAULT, and turn off the power before lapse of that 30 second time period, it will log the same failure again the next time the power is turned on. It takes 30 seconds for it to log and then clear the fault. That is what it was doing in my case and the fault was repeating. Allowing it to clear and then turning off the power, allowed the next power-up cycle to at least try and execute properly which it did in my case. "Haste makes waste!"

"I experienced a failure on my Alpha 87A this morning. When I powered up the unit, it immediately powered down. The next time I powered it up, the FAULT lamp was lit and the band switch lights scrolled back and forth. The manual says this is a Hard Failure related to the Control System where the bandswitch is not moving. Apparently this indicates that during the statup procedure, commands are sent to the band switches and if they do not respond properly, it results in this failure.

If anyone has experience a similar failure, please let me know how how you recovered from the problem. I do intend to call Alpha, but wanted to talk the folks on the street to get as much info as I can before doing that. Your feedback would be apprecaited."

John Owens - N7TK

593. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-13 17:21:25 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 584 Message: 593

** Final update **

My amp turned out to be serious and had to go away for repair
I found a guy here in the UK that only repairs Alpha and Acom
amps.

If you need one of these sorted look him up on QRZ GW3NWS

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://www.truckcam.tv

From: Paul
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 6:47 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: amp will not turn on

** Update 2 **

I found this info:

Fault 22 is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse. It is under
the top cover, immediately to the left of the terminal strip for
selecting the AC voltage. They sometimes blow after a number of years
of use.

If it blows again right away, it may indicate a bad tube or another
problem.

==========
Well mine was blown but after replacing it it blew again
so I need to look deeper. It looks like I spoke too soon
when I asked the question yesterday about changing my tubes !

I know many users are using the "Pulse" tubes without any problems
can I just drop them in or do I need to do any adjustments?

Paul G0HWC

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.733 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2699 - Release Date: 02/20/10 07:34:00

594. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: amp will not turn on

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-14 11:23:13 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 584 Message: 594

Hi Paul,

good to know about GW3NWS.

73s Tadej S52X

2010/3/13 Paul Young <paul@...>

>
>
> ** Final update **
>
> My amp turned out to be serious and had to go away for repair
> I found a guy here in the UK that only repairs Alpha and Acom
> amps.
>
> If you need one of these sorted look him up on QRZ GW3NWS
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
> http://www.truckcam.tv
>
>
>
> *From:* Paul <paul@...>
> *Sent:* Saturday, February 20, 2010 6:47 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: amp will not turn on
>
>
>
> ** Update 2 **
>
> I found this info:
>
> Fault 22 is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse. It is under
> the top cover, immediately to the left of the terminal strip for
> selecting the AC voltage. They sometimes blow after a number of years
> of use.
>
> If it blows again right away, it may indicate a bad tube or another
> problem.
>
> ==========
> Well mine was blown but after replacing it it blew again
> so I need to look deeper. It looks like I spoke too soon

> when I asked the question yesterday about changing my tubes !
>
> I know many users are using the "Pulse" tubes without any problems
> can I just drop them in or do I need to do any adjustments?
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
> ----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.733 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2699 - Release Date: 02/20/10
> 07:34:00
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

595. strange error codes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-20 12:40:22 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 595 Message: 595

Hi all,

Today when using my amp it shut down.
I checked the error codes and getting some real strange stuff.
Look here at the image of the codes.
http://g0hwc.com/private.html

Anyone know what could cause this ? RFI ?

Paul G0HWC

596. Re: [Alpha87a] strange error codes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-21 23:08:11 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 595 Message: 596

Hi Paul,

try again with different software or HyperTerminal.

73s Tadej S52X

2010/3/20 Paul <paul@...>

>
>
> Hi all,
>
> Today when using my amp it shut down.
> I checked the error codes and getting some real strange stuff.
> Look here at the image of the codes.
> http://g0hwc.com/private.html
>
> Anyone know what could cause this ? RFI ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

597. Re: [Alpha87a] strange error codes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-21 23:13:39 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 595 Message: 597

I got the same error codes from Hyper terminal

From: Tadej Arcon
Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2010 11:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] strange error codes

Hi Paul,

try again with different software or HyperTerminal.

73s Tadej S52X

2010/3/20 Paul <paul@...>

Hi all,

Today when using my amp it shut down.
I checked the error codes and getting some real strange stuff.
Look here at the image of the codes.
http://g0hwc.com/private.html

Anyone know what could cause this ? RFI ?

Paul G0HWC

--
Tadej Arcon

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.791 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2761 - Release Date: 03/21/10 07:33:00

598. Re: strange error codes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-24 13:04:01 UTC
From: k6rimdxer
Topic: 595 Message: 598

Why not contact THE expert on the 87A, to-wit: RF Concepts, the manufacturer?

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> I got the same error codes from Hyper terminal
>
>
>
> From: Tadej Arcon
> Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2010 11:08 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] strange error codes
>
>
>
> Hi Paul,
>
> try again with different software or HyperTerminal.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
>
>
> 2010/3/20 Paul <paul@...>
>
>
> Hi all,
>
> Today when using my amp it shut down.
> I checked the error codes and getting some real strange stuff.
> Look here at the image of the codes.
> http://g0hwc.com/private.html
>
> Anyone know what could cause this ? RFI ?
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
>
>
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon
>

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> ---
>
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.791 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2761 - Release Date: 03/21/10 07:33:00
>

599. Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-25 19:54:23 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 595 Message: 599

I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers, and very much appreciated.

Jim N7US

600. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-25 20:10:06 UTC
From: Ron Freeman
Topic: 595 Message: 600

Same here,

Ron K5MM

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 2:54 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha cap

I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers, and very much appreciated.

Jim N7US

_____ Information from ESET Smart Security, version of virus signature database 4974 (20100325) _____

The message was checked by ESET Smart Security.

http://www.eset.com

601. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-26 07:19:50 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 595 Message: 601
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Mine got to UK too

Paul G0HWC
Live from my truck http://truckcam.tv

From: Jim McDonald
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 7:54 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha cap

I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers, and very much appreciated.

Jim N7US

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.791 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2769 - Release Date: 03/25/10 07:33:00

602. Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-26 16:14:33 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 595 Message: 602

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF
> Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers,
> and very much appreciated.
>
> Jim N7US
>

I got mine - nice stuff.

73,
D.
WG5J

603. Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-27 13:02:43 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 595 Message: 603

??
Was this a special promotion I missed out on ?

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF
> > Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers,
> > and very much appreciated.
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >
>
> I got mine - nice stuff.
>
> 73,
> D.
> WG5J
>

604. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-27 13:17:56 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 595 Message: 604

You needed to be on their mailing list and fill out a questionnaire

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://www.truckcam.tv

From: clintws1v
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

??
Was this a special promotion I missed out on ?

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > I just got my Alpha cap the mail, and I wanted to say thanks to the RF
> > Concepts / Alpha crew. It's really high quality, just like the amplifiers,
> > and very much appreciated.
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >
>
> I got mine - nice stuff.
>
> 73,
> D.
> WG5J
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.791 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2772 - Release Date: 03/26/10 19:33:00

605. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-27 15:26:52 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 595 Message: 605

Here's the web page if you want to buy one. The one I got was the PRO-002.

http://tinyurl.com/ylmf4l7

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Paul Young
Sent: March 27, 2010 08:18
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

You needed to be on their mailing list and fill out a questionnaire

Paul G0HWC

http://www.g0hwc.com

http://www.truckcam.tv

606. Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-31 21:14:22 UTC
From: clydescott40
Topic: 595 Message: 606

These on the webpage appear to be the older caps with "Radio Products" on it. The new ones have "Amplifiers".

Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the back..

W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> Here's the web page if you want to buy one. The one I got was the PRO-002.
>
>
>
> http://tinyurl.com/ylmf4l7
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of Paul Young
> Sent: March 27, 2010 08:18
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap
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>
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>
>
> You needed to be on their mailing list and fill out a questionnaire
>
>
>

> Paul G0HWC
>
> http://www.g0hwc.com
>
> http://www.truckcam.tv
>

607. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-03-31 21:28:49 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 595 Message: 607

Mine says "αLPHA amplifiers" on the front with my call embroidered on the back.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

These on the webpage appear to be the older caps with "Radio Products" on it. The new ones have "Amplifiers".

Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the back..

W4CCS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:

>

> Here's the web page if you want to buy one. The one I got was the PRO-002.

>

>

>

> http://tinyurl.com/ylmf4l7

>

> Jim N7US

>

608. Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-01 13:33:49 UTC
From: nn4x
Topic: 595 Message: 608

The caps were done by Bucktown Embroidery.

Why not contact them, and see if you can't order one or three?

bucktownembroidery@...

73,
Steve
NN4X

> Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the back..
>
> W4CCS
>

609. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-01 15:10:31 UTC
From: W4CCS
Topic: 595 Message: 609

Since these are Alpha caps, I'm sure we would need to be granted
permission by RF Concepts..

RFC, What say you..??

On 4/1/2010 9:33 AM, nn4x wrote:
>
> The caps were done by Bucktown Embroidery.
>
> Why not contact them, and see if you can't order one or three?
>
> bucktownembroidery@...
> <mailto:bucktownembroidery%40sbcglobal.net>
>
> 73,
> Steve
> NN4X
>
> > Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the back..
> >
> > W4CCS
> >
>
>

610. Alpha 87 Value

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-02 20:35:51 UTC
From: Gary Harmon
Topic: 610 Message: 610

A good friend asked me to see if I could determine the value of an Alpha 87 linear. It would be a local buy with no shipping involved. I'd appreciate hearing from the experts on this list. Also, are there any reasons why not to buy a plain 87?

Thanks in advance.

73,

Gary H. Harmon, Jr. - K5JWK

6003 Archwood

San Antonio, TX 78239-1504

210.657.1549h

210.884.6926c

"Retirement means everyday is a Saturday except Sunday."

611. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 Value

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-02 21:04:15 UTC
From: Jim & Nancy Denneny
Topic: 610 Message: 611

I would want to add AlphaMax which can be purchased from RFConcepts. I would also want to know its age by serial number and speak with factory. There have been upgrades over the years. I would speculate that a clean, late model (yr 2000+) with all the upgrades and AlphaMAx would be worth approx $4500 - 4800 usd. New 9500's price has been reduced to around $7500. That is just my guess. You might wish to check eHAM for past listings.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Gary Harmon
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 1:36 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87 Value

A good friend asked me to see if I could determine the value of an Alpha 87 linear. It would be a local buy with no shipping involved. I'd appreciate hearing from the experts on this list. Also, are there any reasons why not to buy a plain 87?

Thanks in advance.

73,

Gary H. Harmon, Jr. - K5JWK

6003 Archwood

San Antonio, TX 78239-1504

210.657.1549h

210.884.6926c

"Retirement means everyday is a Saturday except Sunday."

612. Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-03 12:45:09 UTC
From: Michael
Topic: 595 Message: 612

Bucktown Embroidery did a great job, but they won't take a customer direct order direct for Alpha hats. But, we will (RF Concepts). We're going to change the website to show the Alpha Amplifier hats. Order on the website and we'll have bucktown make and ship one (or more) to you. 73's Michael - RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifier

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, W4CCS <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> Since these are Alpha caps, I'm sure we would need to be granted
> permission by RF Concepts..
>
> RFC, What say you..??
>
>
> On 4/1/2010 9:33 AM, nn4x wrote:
> >
> > The caps were done by Bucktown Embroidery.
> >
> > Why not contact them, and see if you can't order one or three?
> >
> > bucktownembroidery@...
> > <mailto:bucktownembroidery%40sbcglobal.net>
> >
> > 73,
> > Steve
> > NN4X
> >
> > > Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the back..
> > >
> > > W4CCS
> > >
> >
> >
>

613. Re: Alpha 87 Value

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-03 16:08:25 UTC
From: clintws1v
Topic: 610 Message: 613

I would say around $4,000 +/- depending on condition, and what upgrades have been done, or need to be done.

Clint
WS1V

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Gary Harmon" <gharmon@...> wrote:
>
> A good friend asked me to see if I could determine the value of an Alpha 87
> linear. It would be a local buy with no shipping involved. I'd appreciate
> hearing from the experts on this list. Also, are there any reasons why not
> to buy a plain 87?
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>
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
>
>
> 73,
>
>
>
> Gary H. Harmon, Jr. - K5JWK
>
> 6003 Archwood
>
> San Antonio, TX 78239-1504
>
> 210.657.1549h
>
> 210.884.6926c
>
>
>
> "Retirement means everyday is a Saturday except Sunday."
>

614. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87 Value

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-03 16:44:09 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 610 Message: 614

Hi,

have a look at the RF Concept pre-owned prices on the link below. I would
say that the street price are more or less what Clint mention.

http://www.rfconcepts.com/PRODUCTS/Promotional-Items_3;jsessionid=0a010c551f43d1487ce8eec7
41a6ad8de8fac08c37c4.e3eSc38RbhuLe34Pa38Ta38Mchv0

73s Tadej S52X

2010/4/3 clintws1v <clintws1v@...>

>
>
> I would say around $4,000 +/- depending on condition, and what upgrades
> have been done, or need to be done.
>
> Clint
> WS1V
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, "Gary
> Harmon" <gharmon@...> wrote:
> >
> > A good friend asked me to see if I could determine the value of an Alpha
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> > linear. It would be a local buy with no shipping involved. I'd appreciate
> > hearing from the experts on this list. Also, are there any reasons why
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> >
> >
> > Thanks in advance.
> >
> >
> >
> > 73,
> >
> >
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> > Gary H. Harmon, Jr. - K5JWK
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> > 6003 Archwood
> >
> > San Antonio, TX 78239-1504

> >
> > 210.657.1549h
> >
> > 210.884.6926c
> >
> >
> >
> > "Retirement means everyday is a Saturday except Sunday."
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

615. Re: Alpha 87 Value

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-03 18:21:19 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 610 Message: 615

I bought my 87 A used a couple years ago for 5500 bucks, and felt that was fair. I have seen them go out on Ebay for 4500 and up, depending on condition. but in todays market $5000 would be fair and $4500 a sweet deal.

I have several other amps and have had more, like several sweep tubes amps, several clipperton l's several each of the 3 and 4 tube ameritron 811 a amps, I have had an alpha 76 (2 tube e 8874 version, and currently run the alpha 87 A on the orion, a als 600 on the pegasus, a tl 922 on the ts 2000, an IC 2-KL on the 746 pro and a als 1200 on the ft 990. The 857 in the car and the 847 in the pickup both run barefoot.

Of all the amps I have owned and now own, I like the alpha 87a the best, and the als 1200 #2, only because of its 10 second warm up time. I hate waiting 3 minutes for the alpha to cycle in while listening to dx calling unanswered cq's.

Tom

N6AJR

616. Thanks for ALPHA 87 Information

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-03 18:30:16 UTC
From: Gary Harmon
Topic: 616 Message: 616

I appreciate the info several members provide on the amp. My friend is satisfied with the recommendations.

73,

Gary H. Harmon, Jr. - K5JWK

6003 Archwood

San Antonio, TX 78239-1504

210.657.1549h

210.884.6926c

"Retirement means everyday is a Saturday except Sunday."

617. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha cap

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-09 08:38:35 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 595 Message: 617

Mine hat arrived today from Bucktown Embroidery, Alpha thanks!

73s Tadej S52X

2010/4/3 Michael <michael@...>

>
>
>
> Bucktown Embroidery did a great job, but they won't take a customer direct
> order direct for Alpha hats. But, we will (RF Concepts). We're going to
> change the website to show the Alpha Amplifier hats. Order on the website
> and we'll have bucktown make and ship one (or more) to you. 73's Michael -
> RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifier
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>, W4CCS
> <w4ccs@...> wrote:
> >
> > Since these are Alpha caps, I'm sure we would need to be granted
> > permission by RF Concepts..
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> > RFC, What say you..??
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> > On 4/1/2010 9:33 AM, nn4x wrote:
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> > > bucktownembroidery@...
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> >
>
> > >
> > > 73,
> > > Steve
> > > NN4X
> > >
> > > > Wish Alpha would let us order extras with the nice calls on the
> back..
> > > >
> > > > W4CCS
> > > >
> > >

> > >
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

618. SOFT FAULT 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-24 17:54:41 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 618 Message: 618

Hi All,

My 87A is/wasworking fine but today I am getting an intermittent FAULT 20.... "Filament current greater than 3.5 amp. Possible shorted filament".

I cannot figure out any special pattern - I can use the amp at full power on RTTY/SSB and no problem, I can change bands and no problem but then all of a sudden while sitting idle in RX it faults with a fault 20.

Can you have an intermittent filament short that only shows itself while not xmitting?

Any advice appreciated

73
Jerry
K1JOS

619. Re: [Alpha87a] SOFT FAULT 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-24 18:30:53 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 618 Message: 619

Hello Jerry,

We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop the erroneous filament current readings.

Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube deck. Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power Supply) directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the bottom orange connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use Caig DeOxit contact cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those connectors to ensure a better contact.
Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control board. They are accessible through the slot in the top-right side of the front sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).

The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has aged and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial port you can use the following commands to see what the filament current is (they are always followed by the ENTER key):

Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and will let it accept the next command.

Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This will give you the filament current. It will read some filament current even when the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real' number because the tubes are turned off.
The fault limit is 4.0 amps.

When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory mode' so that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the microprocessor.

The Fil current limit is stored in address B749, the normal value in hex is A1. To verify this, type

EXT ON(ENTER)
DM B749(ENTER) (the first pair of numbers read out should be A1)

To raise the limit, change the data to A4 (=4.1 amps), or A9 (=4.2 amps).

W B749 A4(ENTER)

End with
EXT OFF
---

73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts
(previously Alpha Radio Products)

On Sat, Apr 24, 2010 at 11:54 AM, jsternmd <wb2orj@...> wrote:

>
>
> Hi All,
>
> My 87A is/wasworking fine but today I am getting an intermittent FAULT
> 20.... "Filament current greater than 3.5 amp. Possible shorted filament".
>
> I cannot figure out any special pattern - I can use the amp at full power
> on RTTY/SSB and no problem, I can change bands and no problem but then all
> of a sudden while sitting idle in RX it faults with a fault 20.
>
> Can you have an intermittent filament short that only shows itself while
> not xmitting?
>
> Any advice appreciated
>
> 73
> Jerry
> K1JOS
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

620. Re: SOFT FAULT 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-25 03:19:13 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 618 Message: 620

Hi Glenn

Many thanks for the advice. Real nice to see you guys providing this kind of support.

best 73
Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Jerry,
>
> We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop the
> erroneous filament current readings.
>
> Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the
> tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube deck.
> Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power Supply)
> directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the bottom orange
> connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use Caig DeOxit contact
> cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those connectors to ensure a better
> contact.
> Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control board.
> They are accessible through the slot in the top-right side of the front
> sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).
>
> The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has aged
> and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial port you can
> use the following commands to see what the filament current is (they are
> always followed by the ENTER key):
>
> Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and will
> let it accept the next command.
>
> Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This will
> give you the filament current. It will read some filament current even when
> the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real' number because the
> tubes are turned off.
> The fault limit is 4.0 amps.
>
> When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory mode' so
> that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the microprocessor.
> ----------
>
> The Fil current limit is stored in address B749, the normal value in hex is
> A1. To verify this, type

>
> EXT ON(ENTER)
> DM B749(ENTER) (the first pair of numbers read out should be A1)
>
> To raise the limit, change the data to A4 (=4.1 amps), or A9 (=4.2 amps).
>
> W B749 A4(ENTER)
>
> End with
> EXT OFF
> ----------
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> RF Concepts
> (previously Alpha Radio Products)
>
>
> On Sat, Apr 24, 2010 at 11:54 AM, jsternmd <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> >
> >
> > Hi All,
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> > My 87A is/wasworking fine but today I am getting an intermittent FAULT
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> > I cannot figure out any special pattern - I can use the amp at full power
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> > of a sudden while sitting idle in RX it faults with a fault 20.
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> > Can you have an intermittent filament short that only shows itself while
> > not xmitting?
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> > Any advice appreciated
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> > 73
> > Jerry
> > K1JOS
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

>

621. Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-25 12:48:17 UTC
From: nick5lc
Topic: 621 Message: 621

I am having problems getting the Alpha remote software up and running after upgrading my OS to Windows 7 X 64. When I open Alpha remote I get error 8020 (error reading comm device).

I have verified the correct comm port (using prolific USB to serial adaptor) and the configuration setting in Alpha remote is correct.

Any ideas?

Nick - K5LC

622. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-25 13:44:16 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 621 Message: 622

Hi Nick,

Try the Alpha software by HB9ZS in the file section of this group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/A%20other%20remote%20control%20program/

Paul G0HWC
http://www.truckcam.tv
Live images from my truck

From: nick5lc
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2010 1:48 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote

I am having problems getting the Alpha remote software up and running after upgrading my OS to Windows 7 X 64. When I open Alpha remote I get error 8020 (error reading comm device).

I have verified the correct comm port (using prolific USB to serial adaptor) and the configuration setting in Alpha remote is correct.

Any ideas?

Nick - K5LC

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.814 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2833 - Release Date: 04/24/10 19:31:00

623. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-25 15:14:48 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 621 Message: 623

Prolific is allergic to Windows 7-there are widespread reports of this. Someone told me a couple of days back that there is now a Prolific driver which will work (or is supposed to work) with Windows 7, but I don't use a device with Prolific and have not looked for the new driver. Your problem is 99% sure to be Prolific.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of nick5lc
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2010 8:48 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote

I am having problems getting the Alpha remote software up and running after upgrading my OS to Windows 7 X 64. When I open Alpha remote I get error 8020 (error reading comm device).

I have verified the correct comm port (using prolific USB to serial adaptor) and the configuration setting in Alpha remote is correct.

Any ideas?

Nick - K5LC

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.801 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2824 - Release Date: 04/25/10 02:31:00

624. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-26 00:13:27 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 621 Message: 624

Hi,

I do not remember exactly, I am still on Win XP, but let`s try to run Alpha Remote like in WinXP. Right click on on the icon, then "properties", ...

73s Tadej S52X

2010/4/25 Robert Carroll <w2wg@...>

>
>
> Prolific is allergic to Windows 7—there are widespread reports of this.
> Someone told me a couple of days back that there is now a Prolific driver
> which will work (or is supposed to work) with Windows 7, but I don’t use a
> device with Prolific and have not looked for the new driver. Your problem
> is 99% sure to be Prolific.
>
>
>
> 73
>
> Bob W2WG
>
>
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *nick5lc
>
> *Sent:* Sunday, April 25, 2010 8:48 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Alpha remote
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>
>
>
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> I am having problems getting the Alpha remote software up and running after
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> Nick - K5LC
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> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.801 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2824 - Release Date: 04/25/10
> 02:31:00
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

625. Re: Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-26 01:10:13 UTC
From: nick5lc
Topic: 621 Message: 625

Thanks for all the input - here is where I am so far. I have found the problem is with the drivers for the USB to serial adapters. The prolific web site has a driver (for Windows 7 X 64) that will allow me to address the 87A but then the other adapters I am using for rig, rotor and rigblaster control quit working. It seems they both have prolific chips but are somehow different. Right now I am trying to find a way to assign a specific driver to the different adapters. This, so far, has not been possible since either of the drivers requires me to remove the previous drivers before the other one can be installed.

At this point it looks like I will have to find a common driver(s) or purchase additional adapter(s).

626. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha remote

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-04-26 01:26:24 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 621 Message: 626

If this is a desktop and if it has available card slots, SIIG makes a quad port which works on Win 7/64 and as a bonus gives you a real UART based unit. It's around $50. I moved to Win 7/64 around 1/1 after the sudden motherboard death of the shack machine. It was a challenge to get everything running. I occasionally reboot the system for one reason or another, but it has never crashed.

http://www.siig.com/

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of nick5lc
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2010 9:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha remote

Thanks for all the input - here is where I am so far. I have found the problem is with the drivers for the USB to serial adapters. The prolific web site has a driver (for Windows 7 X 64) that will allow me to address the 87A but then the other adapters I am using for rig, rotor and rigblaster control quit working. It seems they both have prolific chips but are somehow different. Right now I am trying to find a way to assign a specific driver to the different adapters. This, so far, has not been possible since either of the drivers requires me to remove the previous drivers before the other one can be installed.

At this point it looks like I will have to find a common driver(s) or purchase additional adapter(s).

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.801 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2824 - Release Date: 04/25/10 14:31:00

627. Re: SOFT FAULT 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-05-17 02:45:04 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 618 Message: 627

Hi Glenn,

Since your original email, I reset the fil current limits to 4.1 but I was still having intermittent Fault 20. Very unusual - some days I ran the amp for hours without problems then other days I would turn it on and within seconds after warm up and entering standby it would fault and just keep faulting endlessly each time I reset it.

ADS FIL when it was faulting was runing in high 3.5-3.9 range but I never just caught it the split second it faulted as you have to keep typing in ADS FIL repeatedly and my typing is sloppy hihi.

I took you advice and reseated all the connectors (after Caigs Deoxit) and so far it looks good with FIL running 2.5-2.9 max. I used the opportunity to give the tubes a good dust off as well as the rest of the chassis but my house is pretty dust free and it really was quite minimal.

If the problem returns, before I start thinking of an intermittent 3CX800A7 problem.... which resistors specifically could be aging that would create a problem? I know carbon comp resistor are notorious for changeing resistance but I thought being intermittent would be very unusual but I guess you never know.

I just love this amp and even though I am tempted to trade up for a 9500... this one is just like new otherwise.

best 73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Jerry,
>
> We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop the
> erroneous filament current readings.
>
> Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the
> tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube deck.
> Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power Supply)
> directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the bottom orange
> connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use Caig DeOxit contact
> cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those connectors to ensure a better
> contact.
> Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control board.
> They are accessible through the slot in the top-right side of the front
> sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).
>
> The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has aged
> and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial port you can

> use the following commands to see what the filament current is (they are
> always followed by the ENTER key):
>
> Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and will
> let it accept the next command.
>
> Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This will
> give you the filament current. It will read some filament current even when
> the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real' number because the
> tubes are turned off.
> The fault limit is 4.0 amps.
>
> When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory mode' so
> that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the microprocessor.
> ----------
>
> The Fil current limit is stored in address B749, the normal value in hex is
> A1. To verify this, type
>
> EXT ON(ENTER)
> DM B749(ENTER) (the first pair of numbers read out should be A1)
>
> To raise the limit, change the data to A4 (=4.1 amps), or A9 (=4.2 amps).
>
> W B749 A4(ENTER)
>
> End with
> EXT OFF
> ----------
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> RF Concepts
> (previously Alpha Radio Products)
>
>
> On Sat, Apr 24, 2010 at 11:54 AM, jsternmd <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> >
> >
> > Hi All,
> >
> > My 87A is/wasworking fine but today I am getting an intermittent FAULT
> > 20.... "Filament current greater than 3.5 amp. Possible shorted filament".
> >
> > I cannot figure out any special pattern - I can use the amp at full power
> > on RTTY/SSB and no problem, I can change bands and no problem but then all
> > of a sudden while sitting idle in RX it faults with a fault 20.
> >
> > Can you have an intermittent filament short that only shows itself while
> > not xmitting?

> >
> > Any advice appreciated
> >
> > 73
> > Jerry
> > K1JOS
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

628. AlphaMax autotune failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-04 18:32:46 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 628 Message: 628

My Alphamax is no longer autotuning amp. Default and manual tune are ok so steppers function ok. Hyperterminal or Alpha Remote control 87a ok and Alpha Remote is able to put amp into auto mode.

What failure modes would cause autotune to quit? Do I reinstall AlphaMax from cd? What is latest version?

TIA & 73

Jim Denneny
K7EG

629. Re: AlphaMax autotune failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-04 18:40:11 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 628 Message: 629

Forget the cd comment. I realize AlphaMax involves installation of factory programmed. EPROM. Has anyone known of this EPROM becoming corrupt?

Jim

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> My Alphamax is no longer autotuning amp. Default and manual tune are ok so steppers function ok. Hyperterminal or Alpha Remote control 87a ok and Alpha Remote is able to put amp into auto mode.
>
> What failure modes would cause autotune to quit? Do I reinstall AlphaMax from cd? What is latest version?
>
> TIA & 73
>
> Jim Denneny
> K7EG
>

630. Re: AlphaMax autotune failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-04 20:39:12 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 628 Message: 630

PROBLEM IS RESOLVED - SPECIAL THANKS TO GLENN!!

INPUT POWER MUST BE >32 WATTS FOR AUTOTUNE TO FUNCTION. I WAS RUNNING 25W INPUT IN FSK MODE. AS SOON AS I BUMPED DRIVE TO 32 WATTS, AUTOTUNE KICKED IN.

GLENN SAID THE ONLY KNOWN AUTOTUNE HARDWARE FAILURE IS FAILURE OF THE 87A INPUT WATTMETER. THIS CHECKED OUT OK.

GLAD TO KNOW PROBLEM IS A NON-PROBLEM. THANKS AGAIN GLENN.

JIM
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> My Alphamax is no longer autotuning amp. Default and manual tune are ok so steppers function ok. Hyperterminal or Alpha Remote control 87a ok and Alpha Remote is able to put amp into auto mode.
>
> What failure modes would cause autotune to quit? Do I reinstall AlphaMax from cd? What is latest version?
>
> TIA & 73
>
> Jim Denneny
> K7EG
>

631. Fwd: RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-05 07:51:42 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 631 Message: 631

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Steve Farkas <sales@rfconcepts.com>
Date: 2010/6/4
Subject: RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter
To: tadej.arcon@...

Having trouble viewing this email? www.rfconcepts.com
<http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001qTUVg_-IEA719PeT8TJ5WKjpfHWQkIiMwBaeCUG7uYItUdvwVDIAkhsxAqY_esWzhUdKc7KP3fimqw_SzMGLzzA4Kh6tPRe60k1-oG5PEgMRRQqIMNpQh75Z7JJbSLKADOsDUIfivCQ%3D>
[image: Newletter Header] *ALPHA NEWSLETTER*

"ASK THE HAM WHO OWNS ONE"tm
Our new tagline.

*RFC**June, 2010
* *Newsletter Signup
* <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212> *Upcoming Hamfests we're attending
*
June Hamcom in Dallas June 11 and 12 in Plano TX
PREOWNED!!!
Thinking about a new amplifier but just can't quite swing a new 9500 or 8410? We say a factory reviewed, PREOWNED amplifier will get you legendary ALPHA quality without the new price tag!

Get a preowned ALPHA instead of a new-no name amplifier. Why not own the best!

Call Molly and ask her about the Preowned Alpha Inventory!
*Our Website Link
*
Have you been to our website lately? We keep adding content! If you don't see what you want, drop us a note. If we have it, we'll post it.
Anyone want to write articles for the website? Send Steve a note and tell him what you're thinking.

RF Concepts Website<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103311599948&s=2269&e=001DXzAQy2XVGVSUsDNe5QiKX0JIcUO-TUFLv9qSCui3q1TnKZ2i3iFKIFN8yctyyGXP5Bh-HKQDE1jZGawi9lDCHfFJtlsHpZHyjmleCSYs9dW7IZ_950ORA==>

How's the new Equipment Backlog?

It's good, and continues to get better. We've hired more people and we're building more equipment every month to drive this backlog down. Orders placed TODAY will be delivered by mid July.
How's our Repair Department Doing?

Better! We've made some great progress in the shop. We're turning amps around quicker. I'm going to rate this "IMPROVING".
Thanks to all of our Alpha customers and enthusiasts.

We're thrilled you're enjoying our products. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.
All the best, and 73's from the whole gang at RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers.

WA2NFR AA6DY AEØQ KØHM KXØR NR4DX WØMOM WØRUN.
*Letter from the President,
Steve Farkas, WA2NFR *
Hi from a recovering Hamvention attendee and first time vendor. Hamvention 2010 was very different for me this year. For the past 25 years, I've attended as a customer. I spent the majority of my time perusing the swap meet for that perfect purchase. This year I spent most of my time in the Alpha booth speaking to Alpha users and potential customers. I've got to say, although different, I did experience the show in a very satisfying way. There's no show better than the Hamvention. Great people, lots of excitement, and, most important, its my Hobby - and that keeps it interesting. Throughout my years in the electronics industry, tradeshows have mostly been about strangers dropping by to kick the tires - some familiar with the company some not. This Hamvention was a totally new experience. The vast majority of the visitors were either current customers or people well familiar with us, dropping by to share stories, ask about our amazing amplifiers, and pick up one of the 'ASK ME ABOUT MY ALPHA' stickers. By the end of the show, thousands of people were walking around with our Alpha sticker.

While in Visalia last month, we noticed that just about everyone who came by our booth marveled at the insides of the amplifiers. Most people bent over the amp and looked at the workmanship. It's a commercial quality, hand built amplifier that, in my opinion, should sell for much (much) more...(hi). We noticed that many of the people that looked inside, actually reached in to the display amps to touch the electronics. When we talked about setting up our Dayton display, we decided to raise the amplifiers off the table on a small pedestal to make it easier to poke at it!

We heard so many stories. To many, owning an Alpha amplifier was owning their dream amp. Lots commented "I've always wanted one of these". One fellow dropped by with his newly licensed son and said 'These are Alpha amps, they build the really good big stuff' his son's eyes were wide as was his smile looking in our 9500.

This year the booth display had one of each of our amps on display - the 8410 manual tune, and the 9500 automatic tune version. The first day we had the 8410 operating at full legal limit, sending alternate dits and dahs the entire day. Between the heat coming out of the stack, and the heat dissipated in the Alpha 2100 dummy load, I think we were heating the entire North hall. While the 8410 was loafing at legal limit, the 9500 had its cover off so people could see the insides of the amp. The next day we swapped. The 9500 was operating at full legal limit into our dummy load,

and the 8410 had its cover off.

I was fortunate to meet many people that I have talked to over the phone or had emailed with over the last few months. It felt more like a family event with all the hugging, laughs and good times than a dry exhibitor. I've got to acknowledge Molly, Brad and Angela for their great work. In my opinion, they are Rock Stars and did a fantastic job answering sales and technical questions.

We also previewed our new 6m full legal limit amp. We finished the show with a significant number of orders for the amp, and we appreciate the excitement that amp created. As you'd expect from Alpha, it's a heavy duty 6m amp and, although it's going to be a couple of months before it goes into production, it will be a real perfomer. Actually, we had not planned on even showing it, but the engineering group did a wonderful job of getting it done in time for the show.

Our production output and manufacturing efficiency is improving and we are down to about three to four weeks lead time. Being able to ship from stock now seems possible. Our Wattmeter backlog is now cleared and is a stock item, so if you are looking for a highly accurate meter with a digital and analog display with no need for extra slugs give us call or order online. We've got two versions - a 3KW and a 5KW version. They're auto-ranging and the 3KW version can measure down to 300mW for all our QRP/QRO customers. The great thing about these wattmeters is that they're calibrated in an oven and are linear over the entire range. They may seem expensive, but remember - no $175 slugs to purchase (or remove and install different ranges). We even have an article below that details how excited we are about having these back in stock.

Our 2100 Dummyload should be shipping this month. If you are looking for a legal limit no time limit dummyload check out our model 2100. We used one of these in our booth. We ran 1500 watts into this dummy load the entire weekend.

Check out our pre-owned Alpha factory amps on the website. They're all updated and carry limited factory warranties. We think owning an Alpha - even a pre-owned Alpha is better than owning a new, lower quality, lower reliability amplifier from another manufacturer. Models listed online change frequently, so check them out frequently. Alternatively, call Molly and tell her what you're looking for. She'll put your name on a list and call you if we get an amp that you're looking for.

In forty years we've sold about 10,000 amps - we can say 'Over 15 million watts sold'

Thanks to all who came wearing their Alpha hats and had all the nice things to say!

We're having a great time building our company. As always, if there are any comments, please feel free to drop me a note any time or just say HI at stevef@.... Over the last few months, I've met some of the

nicest hams. It's a wonderful hobby, isn't it?
Letter from the Vice President of Sales and Support,
Molly Hardman, W0MOM
[image: WØMOM]
Visalia and Dayton are behind us and HamCom comes up next week in Dallas - yours truly had a great time talking to all of you who stopped by our booths. I very much enjoy the opportunity to meet customers in person (good old eyeball QSO) and talk at greater length than is possible on most phone calls. Turnout at both shows was excellent and many of the attendees took the opportunity to try out the 9500 that was running in the special event station at Visalia. For those of you who stopped by our booths in Dayton - I hope you enjoyed our new location and had a chance to enter the raffle for the Nixie Tube Clock. Congratulations to Dwight Baker - W4IJY, the winner of that great clock.

It's springtime in the Rockies - yesterday it was 70 degrees and tomorrow it might be snowing - must mean that it's time to spruce up your shack and consider making room for a new or used Alpha amplifier. We have an active trade-in program running at RF Concepts. For years people have asked what is an entry level Alpha amplifier. If you're new to the hobby or still putting your kids through college, the 9500 might not be in your budget. We have on more than one occasion received an amplifier for repair that was newly purchased on the second hand market and "claimed" to be good only for the new owner to find that it had a burned bandswitch or soft tubes or worse still a shorted 8874. When you purchase a used Alpha amplifier directly from us, or from one of our ebay listings, the unit will come with at least a 90 day warranty - we want to be sure that you have a good unit that integrates right into your shack and gets you through that pile-up. Each used amplifier that we list on our web site has been completed upgraded and refurbished in the lab. We complete all known modifications, add on an external fan, new front panels if necessary, test the amplifier on all bands and run a burn-in test before we list and sell the amplifiers.

The most popular trade-in is those who are trading in an 87A in order to upgrade to the Alpha 9500 - what is most rewarding to us at Alpha is how well the amplifiers hold their value. As one customer recently said to me, his Alpha has way outperformed his stock portfolio - in some instances people have received trade-in credit equal to the original purchase price of their amplifier.

We currently have a selection of 87A amplifiers as well as an Alpha 89 for sale - call me if you're interested in any of these - rest assured if they are already sold by the time you read this I will have more to list shortly. You can also let me know if you are looking for a particular model or vintage of amplifier.

As always I welcome hearing from all of our customers whether for new or used amplifiers.
73, Molly, WØMOM

*Letter from the Vice President of Engineering,
Gordon Hardman
*
[image: Small Gordon Small] Care and Feeding of Alpha Power Amplifiers

In 1967, Eimac came out with a slim volume entitled "Care and Feeding of power Grid Tubes". It has become an essential read for anyone working with products engineered around power tubes, and has been through numerous printings, and is now available on-line: < http://www.cpii.com/docs/related/22/C&F1Web.pdf>. Many of RF Concepts products use a power grid tube for the amplifying element, and "Care and Feeding" is still a recommended read if you want to understand more about tubes in general. But, there is more in there than most people care to know, so in this article I will try to give some of the more pertinent results, and also how our experience at RF Concepts/ Alpha Power relate to that. Many excerpts from "Care and Feeding" are scattered in this article, and full credit must go to the Eimac engineers who put so much effort into this valuable work over the years.

The opening paragraph defines a power grid tube as "a device utilizing the flow of free electrons in a vacuum. It has an emitting surface called the cathode, and one or more grids controlling the flow of electrons. An element called the anode collects the electrons." More specifically, we are interested in "gridded tubes which handle large amounts of power, as contrasted to receiving type tubes".

The issue of the cathode of the tube frequently comes up. Basically there are two types of cathode- directly heated and indirectly heated. In the directly heated type, a high current passes through a metal filament causing it to get hot and emit electrons. Special treatment of the metal allows for copious amounts of electrons to be emitted. In the indirectly heated type of cathode, the heating element is separate from the electron-emitting surface. This allows for more flexibility in design, and has numerous advantages. All Alpha tube amplifiers use the indirectly heated cathode type of tube. These tubes use an oxide cathode, which is a coating of barium and strontium oxides on a base metal such as nickel. These are laid down in a complex sequence, but once "activated" the cathode is capable of high emission, and runs at a temperature around 1000 Kelvin. According to Care and Feeding, high emission for each watt of heating power is one of the main advantages of the oxide cathode. Other advantages are high peak emission capability for short pulses, a low operating temperature and greater mechanical ruggedness compared to other cathode configurations.

Thoriated tungsten filaments are one form of a directly heated cathode. A small amount of thorium is added to the tungsten wire, and during tube construction, by proper processing, is brought to the surface of the wire, and emission increases some 1000 times. The filament is also is exposed to carbide at high temperature, a process called carburization. This creates a skin of tungsten carbide on the filament, which reduces the evaporation rate of thorium and increases the life of the filament. Directly heated filaments must operate at temperatures around 1900 Kelvin, much hotter and requiring more power to heat them up than the indirectly heated ones. For a

thoriated tungsten cathode, peak and average emission are essentially the same. They also are generally less tolerant of vibration, and in most cases there are restrictions in a tube using such a cathode, which mean it can not be mounted with its axis horizontal.

For both types of cathode, it is important to observe the rated voltage. Over-heating an oxide cathode gives no worthwhile improvement in emission, but can shorten the life of the tube. This is one of the reasons why all Alpha amps have numerous primary-side "mains taps" on their transformers- it allows the user to set the amplifier up to match their ac supply voltage, and keep the heater voltage at the correct value.

Directly heated tubes are even more finicky in this regard. Eimac recommends that the filament voltage for optimum lifetime be determined in the field for each particular combination of equipment and operating power level. This is because the end of useful life for this type of filament occurs when the carbide "skin" mentioned above has evaporated. Theoretically a 3% (!) increase in filament voltage will result in a 20K rise in temperature, a 20% increase in peak emission but a 50% (!) reduction in life due to carbon loss. This works the other way too- reducing the temperature can extend the cathode life appreciably.

The take-home message from Eimac's "Care and Feeding" is that directly heated cathodes must be treated with more care than indirectly heated ones. Of course, the directly heated tubes are "instant on"- you can transmit a few seconds after applying filament power, while an oxide cathode takes 30 seconds to 3 minutes to heat up sufficiently, but this is a small price to pay for the other advantages of this type of cathode. The Alpha experience has been that the lifetime of an oxide cathode can be extremely long- we see amplifiers with tubes that have seen regular service in amateur stations for 25 or more years that look as though they would probably meet the original factory specifications. And this is without the user doing anything special to set the heater voltage other than selecting the correct primary-side tap on the transformer. In current production amplifiers, this tap setting is particularly simple, and is done by relays. In fact, the 9500 measures the ac line voltage and sets the tap for you. On the 8410, you move a jumper wire from one pin to another to select the tap. We generally ship amplifiers with the tap set to the highest value- 240V. If you are running on 220 or 208, then you have to select the tap (on those amplifiers that don't do it automatically). This reduces the chance of the heater voltage being too high.

Typical tube life expectancy depends on a great many factors in addition to the heater. Operation below the maximum ratings will increase the lifetime of the tube. This is especially true with reduction in the anode dissipation of the tube. Alpha amplifiers are designed with margin for precisely this reason. But, there is no particular "wear out" mechanism, and you are not using up any "time" on the tube by having it on. So, if you go into the shack, turn the amplifier on when you turn the radio on- then the oxide cathode will be ready when you need it. Keep the airways cleaned out, tune for best efficiency and the tube may outlive you!

*Alpha model 4510 and 4520 Wattmeters in stock!
*
Well, it's been quite a while, but the Alpha 4510 and 4520 Wattmeters are back in stock. As you may know, in September we reduced the prices of these two products. The real question is still - "why would I spend almost $1,000 on an Alpha Wattmeter, when I can buy a Bird for $339?". It's a good question, and we're pretty passionate about our meter so we're just going to lay it out. First of all, it's not just a $339 purchase from Bird. $339 gets you a meter that won't measure anything. It's got an input port, an output port, an analog meter, and a case with a nice leather handle. First thing you need to do is buy a slug that plugs into the front of the Bird. In fact, you're probably going to buy multiple slugs because each slug covers a certain frequency and power range. Bird sells 25W, 50W, 100W, 250W, 500W, 1000W, 2500W, and 5000W slugs - each of which costs between $170 and $259. The slug defines the full scale capacity of the meter. If you wanted to cover 5 Watts (for your QRP operation) you can't do it with a Bird - they don't make a slug that measures power that low. So, let's pick the 100 Watt slug for your regular transceiver output, a 1000 Watt slug for mid power QRO, and 2500 Watt slug for your full power QRO operation, you're going to buy 3 slugs for about $600. Total cost: $939. And, you're going to have to find a nice QRP wattmeter that will measure your low power operations.

What you don't get is a laboratory grade, autosensing wattmeter capable of simultaneously displaying the Transmitter output power level on the 4 digit digital display, plus either Reflected power, SWR, or Forward power on the analog meter.

Here are the reasons to consider one of our wattmeters:
Alpha manufactures 2 lab quality HF wattmeters, measuring in 2 different power ranges, 30 milliwatts to 3,000 W and 1 W to 5,000 W. Each are autoranging and set the most appropriate range so you can easily read the actual power.

It has an analog meter AND a digital meter so you can quickly see swings on the analog needle, but read the actual power without squinting at the needle.

Each wattmeter is individually calibrated in the lab over the full HF frequency range and subsequently run through a temperature chamber so that we can develop the unique compensation factors that are loaded onto each unit.

The heart of the meter is a precision embedded stripline coupler. This is fed through a multiplexer to a single detector which eliminates any difference between forward and reflected power since the same detector is used for both measurements. The unit measures frequency as this and the temperature are required by the 4th order polynomials that are used to convert the raw A-to-D data into accurate power measurements.

The meter can either display instantaneous power or PEP readings. Unlike simpler meters, the PEP estimate in the 4500 series meters is produced by

using approximately 500 samples of the RF envelope which are then fed into a specially developed statistical algorithm.

All meter data, forward power, reflected power and SWR are available via an RS-232 connection on the back of the unit. A simple computer program is supplied with the meters that allows display of the parameters simultaneously on a Windows PC and also allows you to control the mode of operation.

The result is a meter that measures from 30 mW to 3 kW (4510) or 1 W to 5 kW (4520) with a typical accuracy of 3% at any reading. This is not an accuracy tied to which particular range you may have chosen or which slug (we don't use them) you may have purchased.

It is this accuracy that has led to comments such as this from a long-time amateur operator and retired physics professor:-

"By the way, I've really grown dependent on the 4510. I use it every day, not only for monitoring my station power output, but on my test bench. Would hate to be without it."

We now have both the 4510 and 4520 meters in stock for immediate shipment.

*Tuning a manual tune amp
*[image: Peter 1]Although tuning a manual tune amp, regardless of manufacturer is similar, since this is an Alpha newsletter, I will focus on tuning the Alpha 8410 amplifier.

There are a number of features that our amplifiers offer for the manually tuned amp that other amp manufacturers do not. One of the main features of the 8410 manual tune amp is the gain meter. This meter is a graphical display on the front of the amp that is so useful as to make tuning a breeze. The basic concept of the meter and the amp is to get the most power out for the least power in. If you were to apply 10 watts of excitation from the transceiver and adjust the tune and load for maximum gain on the meter you would be there. Then increase the drive and just touch up the tune and load controls at the desired power level. This also works when you need that quick tune to catch the DX station before they go QRT. Additionally a quick tuning chart can also be handy when tuning a manual. This is a chart of the tune and load settings for the amp on given bands. Each 8410 ships with a chart with the settings for your amp that were taken in the lab - this is then very easy to modify and edit for use in your shack.

Now that we have covered the gain meter, let's talk about the tuning of a tetrode amp. Some of you have used triode amps before i.e. SB220, TL922 and other grounded grid amps. Tetrode amps tune a little differently. You can still tune for max smoke as some would say, but some times you will notice the amp output will just stop at about 1200 or so watts. If you increase the drive you will see no additional output. This is because the amp is loaded too heavily. If this occurs just back off on load control a little and re-adjust the tune. In a triode grounded grid amp too much load usually means you need to drive the amp harder. Tetrodes do not like this. They tend

to act almost numb when over-driving with excess load and the efficiency goes way down. Remember the most power out to the least power in. If power is being wasted in the tube it will not make it to the antenna where you need it. You can always buy a room heater so why use your amp as one?

On our amps there are two grid LEDS. These LEDS do not need to be on during normal operation. However if you are getting a grid MIN led at 1200 watts, retune the amp.

There are more triode amps on the market than tetrode amps. There is a reason for this. Triode amps are much easier to tame and require fewer components. All triode amps have a fixed bias such as a zener diode. (The 9500's use a regulated bias but that is another article.) This makes changing tubes easy, but there is a cost. When the bias is fixed like that, the tube may not be operating linearly in all ranges. Remember each tube is as unique as the owner, no two are alike. Therefore, making the bias fixed and not adjustable isn't always the best thing. Tetrodes amps can also be built with a fixed bias, but this makes it harder to maintain linearity. In our amps we have a regulated adjustable bias as well as a regulated adjustable screen bias. In short, this means we can optimize the tube performance across the HF spectrum.

When tuning a triode amp some believe heavy loading is good and the grid current must be very low. This is not true. Grid current is developed in the tube when the grid and the cathode are not perfectly aligned. There will always be grid current in a triode in our not so perfect world! Loading the amp too heavily to decrease the grid current just reduces the efficiency of the amplifier. A slight loading of the amp is good but don't over load the amp. Remember grid current is ok as long as it is not above the limits of the tube! That is why we make our amps the way we do. You never know when a brick might fall on your key.
73
Brad
Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1103311599948>
[image: Safe Unsubscribe]<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWdzye2UDcLQzvgZjPRON6NA%3D%3D&p=un>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by sales@rfconcepts.com.
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWdzye2UDcLQzvgZjPRON6NA%3D%3D&p=oo>|
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWdzye2UDcLQzvgZjPRON6NA%3D%3D&p=un>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
Email Marketing <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>by <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>
RF Concepts LLC | 6185 Arapahoe Road | Boulder | CO | 80303

--
Tadej Arcon

632. WTB: 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-06 21:39:44 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 632 Message: 632

Looking to buy an 87A. Let me know what you may have as well as any updates it already has from the factory.

Thanks...

Rich

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

633. RE: [Alpha87a] WTB: 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-06 21:50:41 UTC
From: Jim & Nancy Denneny
Topic: 632 Message: 633

Hi Rich

Going to keep mine. Molly has some 87a trade-ins at the factory. Call her. I was going to trade up to 9500 but this is working so well I decided it was not worth the extra dough. Mine was built in 94. Tubes are still in exc conditions. It has AlphaMax addition and some factory mods.

Good Luck

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rich Hallman - N7TR
Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2010 9:40 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] WTB: 87a

Looking to buy an 87A. Let me know what you may have as well as any updates it already has from the factory.

Thanks.

Rich

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

634. Mounting of Alpha amps ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-19 10:34:08 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 634 Message: 634

Hi all,
I am in the process of building a new shack and I want
to build a consol to take all my radio gear. I am wanting
to mount my Alpha 87a and 99b at a angle with the front
of the amps around 11" higher than the backs. I have
searched the net but can't fine any amps with the tubes
running like this. Should this be ok ?

Paul G0HWC
New Shack:
http://www.g0hwc.com/latest_projects.html
Live images from my truck as I travel around the UK:
http://www.truckcam.tv

635. piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-26 15:30:35 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 635 Message: 635

Hi all,
I am in the middle of converting part of my garage into a shack
http://www.g0hwc.com/latest_projects.html
The shack is a detached building and will be quite small inside
at around 11ft by 9ft. So was thinking I may be best to pipe in
some forced air? would I be best to fit this direct to the back
of the amps or just blow it near back of them ? What fan would
give me the most air movement ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
Live Webcam from my Truck:
http://www.truckcam.tv

636. Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-27 13:56:28 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 635 Message: 636

I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!

73 de Chris VK5CP

637. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-27 14:23:50 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 635 Message: 637

Hi Chris,
its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking
I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.

Paul

From: Christopher Platt
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!

73 de Chris VK5CP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10 19:35:00

638. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-29 15:25:35 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 635 Message: 638

Hi Paul,

I would consider placing the Alpha outside the shack and control it remotely....

Have a look at: http://home.myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html

73s Tadej S52X

2010/6/27 Paul Young <paul@...>

>
>
> *Hi Chris,*
> *its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking*
> *I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.*
> **
> *Paul*
>
> *From:* Christopher Platt <vk5cp@...>
> *Sent:* Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?
>
>
>
> I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!
>
> 73 de Chris VK5CP
>
> ----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10
> 19:35:00
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

639. RE: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-29 17:15:50 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 635 Message: 639

I've run an ALPHA in a rack in a barn for almost ten years now.. no HVAC. so far so good. Just be sure you have a solid Internet or intranet wireless connection when you hit the tune button.;-)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Hi Paul,

I would consider placing the Alpha outside the shack and control it remotely....

Have a look at: http://home. <http://home.myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html> myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html

73s Tadej S52X

2010/6/27 Paul Young <paul@...>

Hi Chris,

its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking

I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.

Paul

From: Christopher <mailto:vk5cp@...> Platt

Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!

73 de Chris VK5CP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10 19:35:00

--
Tadej Arcon

640. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-29 17:26:28 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 635 Message: 640

Hi David and Tadej

I could do that but I have 2x Alpha'a and one of them is a 91b manual tune !

Paul

From: David Jordan
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 6:15 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I've run an ALPHA in a rack in a barn for almost ten years now.. no HVAC. so far so good. Just be sure you have a solid Internet or intranet wireless connection when you hit the tune button.;-)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Hi Paul,

I would consider placing the Alpha outside the shack and control it remotely....

Have a look at: http://home.myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html

73s Tadej S52X

2010/6/27 Paul Young <paul@...>

Hi Chris,

its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking

I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.

Paul

From: Christopher Platt

Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!

73 de Chris VK5CP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10 19:35:00

--
Tadej Arcon

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2970 - Release Date: 06/29/10 07:35:00

641. RE: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-29 18:19:15 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 635 Message: 641

UPGRADE ;-)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Young
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Hi David and Tadej

I could do that but I have 2x Alpha'a and one of them is a 91b manual tune !

Paul

From: David Jordan <mailto:wa3gin@...>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 6:15 PM

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I've run an ALPHA in a rack in a barn for almost ten years now.. no HVAC. so far so good. Just be sure you have a solid Internet or intranet wireless connection when you hit the tune button.;-)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Hi Paul,

I would consider placing the Alpha outside the shack and control it remotely....

Have a look at: http://home. <http://home.myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html> myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html

73s Tadej S52X

2010/6/27 Paul Young <paul@...>

Hi Chris,

its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking

I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.

Paul

From: Christopher <mailto:vk5cp@...> Platt

Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroup <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> s.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!

73 de Chris VK5CP

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10
19:35:00

--
Tadej Arcon

---

size=2 width="100%" align=center>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2970 - Release Date: 06/29/10
07:35:00

642. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-29 18:20:19 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 635 Message: 642

Hi,

there is no other way with manual tune amps.

The volume of input and output air in your shack must be the same, so you will need inbound and outbound air pipe.

73s Tadej S52X

2010/6/29 Paul Young <paul@...>

>
>
> *Hi David and Tadej*
> **
> *I could do that but I have 2x Alpha'a and one of them is a 91b manual
> tune !*
> **
> *Paul*
> **
>
>
> *From:* David Jordan <wa3gin@...>
> *Sent:* Tuesday, June 29, 2010 6:15 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* RE: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?
>
>
>
> I’ve run an ALPHA in a rack in a barn for almost ten years now.. no HVAC…
> so far so good. Just be sure you have a solid Internet or intranet wireless
> connection when you hit the tune button…;-)
>
> ----------
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Tadej Arcon
> *Sent:* Tuesday, June 29, 2010 11:26 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?
>
>
>
> Hi Paul,
>
> I would consider placing the Alpha outside the shack and control it

> remotely....
>
> Have a look at: http://home.myfairpoint.net/vze88v2v/id1.html
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2010/6/27 Paul Young <paul@...>
>
>
>
> *Hi Chris,*
>
> *its not most of the year !!! but due to the small space I was thinking*
>
> *I would be best to bring in fresh air rather than circulating it.*
>
> *Paul*
>
> *From:* Christopher Platt <vk5cp@...>
>
> *Sent:* Sunday, June 27, 2010 2:56 PM
>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re:piped air cooling to Alpha amps?
>
>
>
> I didn't think that heat was a problem in G land!
>
> 73 de Chris VK5CP
> ----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2965 - Release Date: 06/26/10
> 19:35:00
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> --
> Tadej Arcon
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> ----------
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

> Version: 9.0.830 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2970 - Release Date: 06/29/10
> 07:35:00
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

643. Re: piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-06-30 20:11:56 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 635 Message: 643

One trick I have found useful is to put a couple of 12v computer fans wired in series (half speed and very quiet this way) mounted to blow across the "back area" of where the equipment is.

This is not blowing directly on any specific piece of equipment but just insures that there is a continuing flow of cooler air moving across the heat exchange area for all the gear.. A lot of times we set up gear with the cooling areas all in the back and some what restricted, so this insures at least some movement of incoming air to the heat sinks.

It cost's next to nothing and you already have the 12 v there and it can't hurt.

Tom

N6AJR

644. Re: piped air cooling to Alpha amps?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-01 12:58:37 UTC
From: N6TT
Topic: 635 Message: 644

I have 2 Alpha 87a and I use a thin fan made for laptops called Notebook cooler fan that is placed under the laptop and plugs into a USB port. It put out 28 CFM speed 1500 RPM noise level 25 DB,5 volts DC, Power consumption 0.9 volts,rated current 180 MA, . I simply slide it under the 87a. They were less then 10 dollars each at a local place called Bed and Bath. Ive used these while contesting for 48 hours and they keep them fairly cool.... I also have a 12 volt computer fan blowing across the back too like Tom is doing.....Just a thought

Steve
N6TT <><

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, catfishtwo@... wrote:
>
> One trick I have found useful is to put a couple of 12v computer fans wired
> in series (half speed and very quiet this way) mounted to blow across the
> "back area" of where the equipment is.
>
> This is not blowing directly on any specific piece of equipment but just
> insures that there is a continuing flow of cooler air moving across the
> heat exchange area for all the gear.. A lot of times we set up gear with the
> cooling areas all in the back and some what restricted, so this insures at
> least some movement of incoming air to the heat sinks.
>
> It cost's next to nothing and you already have the 12 v there and it
> can't hurt.
>
> Tom
>
> N6AJR
>

645. Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-10 14:15:37 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 645 Message: 645

Hi. My 87A is getting Fault 9. I'm pretty sure I saw a Fault 8 as well, but Fault 9 is repeating consistently. FWIW, AlphaRemote doesn't know the error text for Fault 8 or 9 (it says the fault is unknown.)

There's a Fault 8 troubleshooting guide in the Files section, but nothing on Fault 9. Is there a troubleshooting guide for Fault 9? Has anyone else gotten one of these?

I have a sinking feeling that Fault 9 is a definitive indicator of a failed TX diode... :-(

73, Dick WC1M

646. Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-10 14:38:09 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 645 Message: 646

Hi Dick,

Fault 8 is Transmit PIN diode back bias below min required value to key up.

Fault 9 is Transmit PIN diode forward current below min required value to key down.

Paul G0HWC

Website: http://www.g0hwc.com
Truck Cam: http://www.truckcam.tv
Skype: paul.g0hwc

647. Re: Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-10 16:18:36 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 645 Message: 647

Thanks, Paul. I got the text for the fault codes from the manual. I was just reporting that AlphaRemote doesn't know what they mean.

The question is, does fault 9 mean the transmit PIN diode is blown?

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Dick,
>
> Fault 8 is Transmit PIN diode back bias below min required value to key up.
>
> Fault 9 is Transmit PIN diode forward current below min required value to key down.
>
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
> Website: http://www.g0hwc.com
> Truck Cam: http://www.truckcam.tv
> Skype: paul.g0hwc
>

648. more on fault 9 (now 11 and 8)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-11 23:13:24 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 648 Message: 648

Now that the contest is over, I recabled the amps and fired up the 87A to see what it would do. It came up in Operate mode normally, and I then switched to Standby to make sure the rig and dummy load were connected and transmitting OK at low power. Then I switched back into Operate. At that point I hit the key and got fault 11, "Transmit PIN diode forward current exceeds maximum limit key down." (That's from the manual. Alpha Remote calls it "PIN back bias too low." Now when I try to switch from Standby to Operate to clear the Fault, the amp gets fault 8, "Transmit diode back bias below minimum required value key up". (Again Alpha Remote doesn't know what fault 8 is.)

Kinds sounds like a shorted PIN diode.

Can someone from Alpha chime in here?

649. Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-26 00:07:44 UTC
From: ke5mmt
Topic: 649 Message: 649

I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25% and after the warm-up went key down.

The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.

Where should I start looking?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

650. RE: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-27 13:03:25 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 649 Message: 650

I would start by checking the breaker for your 220v circuit; then I would pull the two main fuses on the back of the Alpha.

Jim
KB0X

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ke5mmt
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2010 7:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25% and after the warm-up went key down.

The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.

Where should I start looking?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

Yahoo! Groups Links

651. Re: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-27 16:07:37 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 649 Message: 651

Hi Everett,

Have you had any faults come up before on your amp ?
When the amp shut down did it give a fault code ?

If in the past you have had 5 of the same hard faults
and this was number 6, this would have brought in the
safety feature and stopped the amp from power up.

But as you say it just shut down, it sounds like one of
the main fuses.

Paul G0HWC
Live images from my truck:
http://www.truckcam.tv

From: ke5mmt
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 1:07 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25% and after the warm-up went key down.

The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.

Where should I start looking?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.851 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3029 - Release Date: 07/26/10 07:36:00

652. Re: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-27 16:48:26 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 649 Message: 652

Everett,

Like Jim Wakler said ,I would start with the main house breaker, then the fuses on the back of your 87a. If that dosen't work you might have a more serious problm. Are any of the led's lit-up "even slightly"?

Jim
K5WLQ

From: Jim Walker <jim@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tue, July 27, 2010 8:03:25 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

I would start by checking the breaker for your 220v circuit; then I would pull the two main fuses on the back of the Alpha.

Jim
KB0X

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ke5mmt
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2010 7:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Dead Alpha

I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25% and after the warm-up went key down.

The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.

Where should I start looking?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

Yahoo! Groups Links

653. Re: Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-30 00:47:30 UTC
From: ke5mmt
Topic: 649 Message: 653

Thanks everyone for your replies.

My apologies for my lack of responses. Our A/C has been out and we've been dealing with it since last Friday.

I checked the breaker and it was ok.

Then I checked the fuses. One was good, the other was bad.

I checked everything out, replaced the blown fuse and everything seems to be back to normal.

Shortly after that the A/C repair man told me that I'd need a new disconnect. It seems that one side of it is toast. As in melted!

The amp is on a dedicated 220v circuit but I find it odd that one side of the A/C's 220v circuit and one side of the Alpha's 220v circuit both had problems. Everything else in the house seems to be fine.

Thanks again!

Everett
KE5MMT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ke5mmt" <ke5mmt@...> wrote:
>
> I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25% and after the warm-up went key down.
>
> The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.
>
> Where should I start looking?
>
> Thanks.
>
> Everett
> KE5MMT
>

654. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-30 17:13:41 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 649 Message: 654

Everett,
Happy hear your 87a is back operating normal.... Failure of oneside of a 220 circuit isn't all that uncommon. Replacing your disconnect is probably a lot less expensive than sending the amp back to Alpha for service. Alpha has had my 87a in their shop since June, Molly told me it might be resady at the end of the month .....today! I hope thats so!!!

73's

Jim
K5WLQ

From: ke5mmt <ke5mmt@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thu, July 29, 2010 7:47:30 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Dead Alpha

Thanks everyone for your replies.

My apologies for my lack of responses. Our A/C has been out and we've been dealing with it since last Friday.

I checked the breaker and it was ok.

Then I checked the fuses. One was good, the other was bad.

I checked everything out, replaced the blown fuse and everything seems to be back to normal.

Shortly after that the A/C repair man told me that I'd need a new disconnect. It seems that one side of it is toast. As in melted!

The amp is on a dedicated 220v circuit but I find it odd that one side of the A/C's 220v circuit and one side of the Alpha's 220v circuit both had problems. Everything else in the house seems to be fine.

Thanks again!

Everett
KE5MMT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ke5mmt" <ke5mmt@...> wrote:
>
> I was trying to work 9X0TL on 20 meters CW this afternoon with my Flex 5000A
>barefoot. No luck so I switched on the Alpha, reduced the Flex's output to 25%
>and after the warm-up went key down.
>

> The meters spiked and the Alpha went dark. It will not power up.
>
> Where should I start looking?
>
> Thanks.
>
> Everett
> KE5MMT
>

655. Re: Dead Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-07-30 17:42:10 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 649 Message: 655

As an aside, I had a similar problem in my shack a while back. I had an electrician run a new 220 v and several 110 v lines to the existing shack.

Later we moved the shack to an adjacent room. we saw a peculiar problem. something was weird on the 220 v line . It went to 3 separate plugs in the shack (for 3 different amps, only one in use at any on time.) for some reason they all read improperly with a meter.

We trouble shot the wiring several times and my friend , Jerry, finally found it at the power panel. I guess over the years the ground for the panel and house had loosened up a screw on the ground for the house. So the power was using one or the other "hot" wires to come back to the grid.

After snugging the screw down about 4 or 5 turns, the problem went away. Apparently the vibrations of the ac power running through the connectors had loosened up the screw and allowed the ground line to loose contact. So your problem seems quite similar. what a tough problem to find.

Tom
N6AJR
.
_Re: Dead Alpha _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/653;_ylc=X3oDMTJxYzV2ZjFrBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM2NTMEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Ztc2cEc3RpbWUDMTI4MDQ5MTgyNw--)
Posted by: "ke5mmt" _ke5mmt@... _ (mailto:ke5mmt@...?Subject=Re:%20Dead%20Alpha) _ke5mmt _ (http://profiles.yahoo.com/ke5mmt)
Thu Jul 29, 2010 5:52 pm (PDT)

Thanks everyone for your replies.

My apologies for my lack of responses. Our A/C has been out and we've been dealing with it since last Friday.

I checked the breaker and it was ok.

Then I checked the fuses. One was good, the other was bad.

I checked everything out, replaced the blown fuse and everything seems to be back to normal.

Shortly after that the A/C repair man told me that I'd need a new disconnect. It seems that one side of it is toast. As in melted!

The amp is on a dedicated 220v circuit but I find it odd that one side of the A/C's 220v circuit and one side of the Alpha's 220v circuit both had problems. Everything else in the house seems to be fine.

Thanks again!

Everett
KE5MMT

656. Fwd: RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-11 12:58:52 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 631 Message: 656

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Steve Farkas <sales@rfconcepts.com>
Date: 2010/8/11
Subject: RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter
To: tadej.arcon@...

Having trouble viewing this email? www.rfconcepts.com
<http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001tNBA_dSZoNoAP57IvETLYoz4M8Ub7RhzSlY1p1VvvXL43FjwlKUNGA0ivPmgrUy3-l3KWal9KUNswonT6qotaXiLvLHQIce7fBT0hi_QOgcE-voIeXfk3WocQMUnbi2ai-6P1MdQm14%3D>

[image: ask the ham who has one]
[image: Newletter Header] *ALPHA NEWSLETTER*
Introducing our new 8406 6 Meter Amplifier

[image: thumbnail]Here's our new Alpha 8406 6 meter, full legal limit amplifier. Check out its sleek lines, its amazing display, and it's big 'ol tune and load knobs. Have you ever seen anything more beautiful? It's in beta right now, and we're going through FCC type acceptance. It uses a 4CX1500 tetrode, with our standard 3.6kVA power supply and silver plated Alpha tank circuit.

*RFC<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrenb2bCDEO9Rth75otcMog349n76LLw323EFzUjHXYpbCBFRf1NMFKYKZs7UC7ewlEtaCjx2ZaMLKTmpN4_jj9VJ1FxCoat_BS3NopxyX_GSg==>
**August, 2010
**Newsletter Signup
* <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>*Free Hats! (almost)
*
Or, call it a favor. Either way, we get a posting on the internet, and you get a free Alpha Cap!

We want you to tell the world about your experience with Alpha products. It's the best advertising we can find - the "ASK A HAM WHO OWNS ONE" campaign is really working nicely, but ONLY because they're great amps and we take care of our customers.

If you post a review of a current model Alpha amplifier on the eHam review system at www.eHam.net<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRreTzZKRzJeWMyLjH1ZlSWBRHj3BMRowFSCel5_Jihm-EYwPnfG0b3y1xwct0moMz_MIQSElihjvWl7n8HTQFPYt-a3m1UkZ9zw=>and/or
any other online review system that you feel comfortable using, and send us a note pointing it out, WE WILL SEND YOU A FREE HAT WITH YOUR CALL EMBROIDERED ON THE BACK.
*Upcoming Hamfests we're attending

*
We'll be at the Huntsville AL hamfest next - Aug 21 and 22. See
www.hamfest.org<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrff311oefe
5SQ5U-DnNc_bZSsUF1g911ZZoT0jSQ2bC9ApqRUqzdL15Hg__VMbje2o5F40oDJwuvLuGcvBcTpfg5pSUY6ztwz8=>
for
more details.

We'll be at the Boxbourough New England
Hamfest<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrcsjScfzwAD2AYHSGi
mF_Ltx5MuCm5UJWZi4YOUuL23z8ohCqlNd_S6d6nHmepNB3_J_1RcsIPMDeAtykl-qO2XvAA-PemyKobJfeMkxcFUl
g==>
on Aug 27, 28, and 29.

We'll be at the
W9DXCC<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrdOJsGGFpbWqsbFCBhR
sDC3UgUDES4f-V7UcB8Tqb917GhRZ3_YQOg4_O1zGKa05BEBbtZqhwvgsWJfezmDBCwKO1WyTes-RBQk8G4y0HO0yw
==>in
Chicago Il on September 10th and 11th.

[image: preowned]
Thinking about a new amplifier but just can't quite swing a new 9500 or
8410?

We say a factory reviewed, PREOWNED amplifier will get you legendary ALPHA
quality without the new price tag.

Get a preowned ALPHA instead of a new - no name amplifier. Why not own the
best.

There's a special section on our website listing our certified preowned
equipment HERE<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrce_EyWq6H3
zYYNP92bZ-nvqLQuvO7MfUPWq2eMD3OYG7TTq6ZeJjtJ4nZVCawBqdwdolwCL7egTJQRyxRqnUWUz6SuSyucfru_rb
HUsF72m8_spfQV7qSyaNa2AKtRwei_inviGcAhu-645V_Qtprt>.

Or call Molly at 303-473-9232 and ask her about the Preowned Alpha
Inventory.
[image: backlog]

FANTASTIC!

We're shipping our 8410 manual tune amplifier, and the 9500 auto tune
amplifier FROM STOCK! This hasn't happened for a very, very long time.
Thanks to all the Alpha employees for making this happen. It's an exciting
step for us as we work on our new projects. We hope to ship our new 6
meter, full legal limit amplifier this month.
Our Website Link
[image: website]
Anyone want to write articles for the website?

Anyone want to help us populate the website with great products Alpha should
be selling?

Send Steve a note and tell him what you're thinking.

RF Concepts Website<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrenb2bCDEO9Rth75otcMog349n76LLw323EFzUjHXYpbCBFRf1NMFKYKZs7UC7ewlEtaCjx2ZaMLKTmpN4_jj9VJ1FxCoat_BS3NopxyX_GSg==>

[image: repair department]

Better! We've made some great progress in the shop. We're turning amps around quicker. It's about a 2 week turnaround. The only amps in the shop that have been there longer than 2 weeks are ones we're waiting on parts from our vendors. We're still trying to get it down below a week.
[image: thank you]
to all of our Alpha customers and enthusiasts.

We're thrilled you're enjoying our products. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.
All the best, and 73's from the whole gang at RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers.

Steve, WA2NFR
Michael, AA6DY
Glenn, AEØQ
Brad, KØHM
Carey, KXØR
Molly, WØMOM
Gordon, WØRUN
Mike
Pam
Angela
Ken.
Mike
*Letter from the President,
Steve Farkas, WA2NFR *
July 2010 - this month will go down in our record books as the month that we filled the last backorder for one of our Alpha 9500 amplifiers and can say "we are no longer backordered on amplifiers". It took us ten months from the day we bought the company to the day we actually put finished amplifiers on the shelf - only about 8 months longer than I thought it would take. Every one of our promises, and every one of our customers has received their amplifier. During the last ten months we blew away our sales forecast, but we kept chipping away at that backlog. WE ARE NOW SHIPPING FROM STOCK! It's a great feeling and I want to thank the employees at RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers who have worked so hard to catch up with demand.

Our new 6 meter amplifier, the Alpha 8406<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRreFV7iXGFhWAhHrJ_6PBGMWy3ge6Rkzw4uum2falqn5_4CPh7C5_dLAfqUbjhBR-aCEHMoYSFeT2X-gz1U2hY-b-XpDiS3vUw503USBu-kyYIqtGOi46DVIZsVmPijlCgb6gn_TG9Xz2d68EzcLdddOQ3m5IS2yR8x8-in0ftQQ84Ic7NGyqC_7iy85alBGmO0=>is in beta testing and should be through FCC and ready to ship by the end of
the month. This is a nice amp. Full legal power on 6 meters. If you're a serious 6 meter operator and you're looking for an amp that will do continuous duty, check it out HERE<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRreFV7iXGFhWAhHrJ_6PBG

MWy3ge6Rkzw4uum2falqn5_4CPh7C5_dLAfqUbjhBR-aCEHMoYSFeT2X-gz1U2hY-b-XpDiS3vUw503USBu-kyYIqt
GOi46DVIZsVmPijlCgb6gn_TG9Xz2d68EzcLdddOQ3m5IS2yR8x8-in0ftQQ84Ic7NGyqC_7iy85alBGmO0=>.
The engineers chose a single 4CX1500 tetrode for this amp because of its
robustness and stability at 54Mhz. Couple this with the time tested 3.6kVA
power supply and it's an amp you can depend on.

An old friend and colleague of ours, Mike Adell has joined the team as the
Director of Channel Sales. He's been focused on signing some channel
partners - first in the US and Canada, and then the rest of the world. We
want distribution worldwide for these famous amplifiers. Both Amateur
Electronic Supply<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrf4_xTJN
Qen2tMSUPcQyd8AC8kJ6upmTS2A3vLbJ0nTCNM4k0fSkZf9NEClGFhccoC_Nq7kkjXZoL2aF0fRiqhO8jlpBjy7bNF
0e8FvknVzRA==>and
Ham
Radio Outlet<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrdEmgSMnfriEx
Tv9JFlX_itg45jzaeId2-D7J3NoKV5R1_r-4ByjUCcFamAThghpiggu9pv-N_1Q4ZYokXgjcIaE_I7IckiE9z0Jjvo
gGhxrg==>in
the US and
Radioworld<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrc66YPZzEqml8my
_Wti7jKDM2fSAFt3cfv4n13H58-5F4I74aOKMgskxVPrllGTwEh2b4avqxEOPLkhtyaKkpxgHC8_Rypsw_624Ne-gB
jOGg==>in
Canada have agreed to be Alpha Dealers and we're thrilled to have them
on
board. We're training sales people right now so they should all be up to
speed on our entire line of products. If you know the perfect retailer,
reseller or distributor in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Australia, the
Far East or South America, drop Mike Adell a note at
mikea@... tell him. He will appreciate your input.

We're having a great time building our company. As always, if there are any
comments, please feel free to drop me a note any time or just say Hi at
stevef@.... Over the last few months, I've met some of the
nicest hams. It's a wonderful hobby, isn't it?

73
Steve, WA2NFR

Letter from the Vice President of Sales and Support, Molly Hardman, W0MOM
[image: WØMOM]
I don't know about your part of the world, but here in Colorado things have
REALLY warmed up over the past few weeks. Just yesterday one of my
neighbors said he's ready for snow! I wouldn't go that far, but I am ready
for the fall season to start. I'm very excited to let you all know that
right now we are shipping amplifiers from stock - in the 10+ years that I've
been associated with Alpha, that's the first time I've ever been able to
make that claim. Both the 8410 and the 9500 are in stock as I type this -
we will have to see if we are able to keep up with the demand as people get
the news. In addition, we're very excited to have signed up 2 US dealers,
and a Canadian dealer to sell our amplifiers, dummy loads and wattmeters.
Please welcome AES<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrf4_xTJ
NQen2tMSUPcQyd8AC8kJ6upmTS2A3vLbJ0nTCNM4k0fSkZf9NEClGFhccoC_Nq7kkjXZoL2aF0fRiqhO8jlpBjy7bN
F0e8FvknVzRA==>,

HRO,<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrdEmgSMnfriExTv9JFlX_itg45jzaeId2-D7J3NoKV5R1_r-4ByjUCcFamAThghpiggu9pv-N_1Q4ZYokXgjcIaE_I7IckiE9z0JjvogGhxrg==>and
Radioworld<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrc66YPZzEqml8my_Wti7jKDM2fSAFt3cfv4n13H58-5F4I74aOKMgskxVPrllGTwEh2b4avqxEOPLkhtyaKkpxgHC8_Rypsw_624Ne-gBjOGg==>to
the world of Alpha.

In our last newsletter I mentioned that we are planning to provide support to DXpeditions - we are very pleased and proud to announce that we will be a major sponsor of the upcoming PJ7 trip to the new DX entity of Sint Maarten that will take place in October, 2010. RF Concepts will supply 6 Alpha 8410 amplifiers and 1 Alpha 8406 amplifier to the DXpedition group. Check out their website at
www.stmaarten2010.com<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrdPQQ7vHGxG7HgWnvTWviNeQs5ldW-eEMtUKrdw3oCEFNNp-7yYsT7Mfddncp7zV901gqro4wnhVXbFP9uMnicnfmOWWi0bA5jd6yBaZ53b0A==>to
get updates on the planning for their trip. Please contact me
directly
regarding other DXpeditions.

In the next few weeks we will finalize our plans for our move - my hope is that our next home lasts another good 10 years which is how long we have been in our present location. I want you all to know that you as a customer will not see any interruptions in the service, sales and support that we provide. Our repair turnaround has improved such that the average repair time is under 2 weeks - we have an incentive to keep this up so that we don't have to move repair amps from our old to our new homes, hi, hi.

I will be at the Huntsville Hamfest and Boxboro in August, and at W9DXCC in Chicago in September. I hope to see you there. Please stay in touch.

73,
Molly, WØMOM

*Letter from the Vice President of Engineering,
Gordon Hardman, W0RUN
*
[image: Small Gordon Small] Care and Feeding Continued - Part 2

Last newsletter we dipped into the Eimac classic "Care and Feeding of Power Grid Tubes" to summarize the properties of directly and indirectly heated cathodes, and to give some background on why Alpha prefers the indirectly heated type. This time, I thought it would be interesting to dig back into it to explain the choice of particular tubes that we use. It turns out the "Care and Feeding" has a whole section devoted to "Linear Amplifier and Single Sideband Service", and much of the information here mirrors what is in "C&F", with some additional observations based on the Alpha experience.

The demand for linear amplifiers was driven by the rise of SSB as a communications mode. SSB has origins that go back to the 1930's, but by the late 1950's and early 1960's, it was the dominant military and commercial

mode. There were even independent-sideband (ISB) systems that ran two independent voice channels on the upper sideband, and two on the lower sideband, along with a reduced carrier to aid in demodulation.

These sorts of systems placed extreme demands on tube designers to come up with highly linear tubes. This they did, and the legacy of this technology push is still with us today, and we are reaping the benefit of it in well designed amplifiers that use tubes made to these basic designs.

In C&F, some time is spent in describing how tubes deviate from linear, and how this distortion is defined and measured. If you read reviews of radios or amplifiers, you will see numbers for "two-tone tests" and "3rd-order IMD". What this means, put as simply as we can, is that if the input-to-output relationship of an amplifier is plotted, it can be approximated by a polynomial expression of the form y=a.x+b.x^2+c.x^3+d.x^4+e.x^5..... and so on. A "perfect" linear amplifier has a transfer characteristic of the form y=a.x, where y is the output, x is the input, and a is the gain. All the other products in the first equation are "higher order distortion products". It turns out that if you drive an amplifier with two equal-level signals spaced close together (the two-tone test), something interesting occurs- all the "even" terms in the equation (x^2, x^4 etc.) give rise only to signals that are harmonically related to the band you are on. So if you do this test on 7 MHz, the distortion products are on 14, 21, 28 MHz etc. These are far away from the band of interest, and are easily attenuated to inconsequential levels by output networks of various kinds. As an aside, this is one of the reasons that the amateur bands are harmonically related- early regulators realized that by doing this, poorly designed amateur equipment would mostly interfere only with other amateurs. This practice was continued up into the VHF bands eventually. Now, the "odd-order" products (x^3, x^5 etc.) are more problematic. It turns out that for a two-tone test, they give rise to signals that differ from the fundamental only by the spacing of the two tones times the order of the product minus one - so if the two tones are spaced 2kHz apart, the "3rd order product" is 4kHz away (2*(3-1)), the 5th order 8 kHz away and so on. These are in the same band that the transmitter is operating in, and difficult or impossible to filter out. It is up to the amplifier to maintain good linearity over at least the 3rd and 5th order products. In general, higher order products rapidly go down, and 7th and higher order are of little practical interest, although they can be observed on a spectrum analyzer during testing. The two-tone test is performed because it is the simplest possible approximation to the human voice, which consists of many simultaneous tones which are constantly changing. So we can compare two amplifiers using this test, and get a good idea of how well they each are going to co-exist with other users of the radio spectrum. These signals are called "intermodulation products" because they only arise when multiple signals "intermingle" in an amplifier. The standard method of specifying the distortion products is to specify the ratio between one output tone and one distortion product of a two-equal-tone input signal.

This is shown below.

[image: GordonArticleAug2010]

As pointed out in C&F, to adequately describe the performance of a tube (or a solid-state device) in SSB linear service, it is necessary to determine many parameters. The normal electrode voltages and currents must be specified plus the two-tone currents, the quiescent operating point, the peak envelope power (PEP), and the magnitude of the intermodulation distortion products.

For linear SSB service, tubes should have the following features:
1. High power gain.
2. Low anode-to-grid capacitance
3. Good efficiency
4. Linear characteristics which are maintained without degradation across the desired operating range.

Triodes, having a large anode-to-grid capacitance are almost always operated in so-called "grounded grid mode", where the grid is at RF ground potential. Under these conditions, the control grid acts as a shield between the input and output circuits, improving stability. A line of triodes was developed, tracing its origins back to Eimac, which have gains of 10 dB or more. For optimum operation, a tuned circuit is placed in the cathode return path to maintain a sinusoidal wave shape over the RF drive cycle. To keep this "stiff", Alpha uses a pi-type filter in the 87A and 9500, so that the impedance presented to the tube is low at harmonic frequencies. In all linear amplifier systems, especially ones exhibiting the sort of input characteristics of triodes, the driver output impedance should be as low as possible because of the non-linear input loading characteristics of the amplifier tube as it approaches full output. It turns out that the 3CX1500A7/8877 triode is exceptionally easy to use, and with some engineering care can be used as the basis of a compact "table-top" linear- the Alpha 9500.

The tetrode linear amplifier is almost always grid driven in order to take advantage of the inherently high gain of the tube. If properly designed, a grid-driven amplifier can be driven into the grid current region and still produce a clean output signal. Since the no-grid-current case only sees the input capacitance of the tube, while the grid-current case also sees an equivalent input resistance, it is necessary for the driving signal to be "stiff" just as in the triode case. In Alpha amplifiers, this is achieved by "swamping" the control grid with a non-inductive resistor. After compensating for stray reactances, this is seen as a good 50-ohm load by the driver. In the case of the tetrodes, the control grid and screen grid potentials have to be selected for optimum performance. Choice of screen voltage is a compromise between power output, zero-signal anode current, and intermodulation distortion. Usually, the lowest value of screen voltage compatible with the required output will produce the lowest intermodulation distortion (read "cleanest output signal"). In the 8410 amplifier, Alpha has determined that paralleling two 4CX1000A tubes allows particularly low screen voltage, and correspondingly good IMD performance. Tetrodes, such as the 4CX1000A, look like "constant current sources" at their outputs. So paralleling two of them gives a 3 dB increase in transconductance. But

output power is determined by plate voltage and impedance, so the screen voltage can be lowered with no sacrifice in gain, but with an improvement in IMD. In the case of the 8406 6m amplifier, the output capacitance of two tubes was problematic, so a single 4CX1500B was used, with screen and control potentials chosen for good IMD.

For all of the tube types used in Alpha amplifiers, the original Eimac data sheets specify third-order IMD ratios of 35 dB or greater, and those values are achieved in our products when adjusted as described in the manual.

It is interesting to note that all the above designs were achieved using an identical and interchangeable transformer. After the tube, this is the most costly item in an amplifier, and by commonizing this component, advantages of scale could be realized to reduce cost.

There is a lot more that could be written about testing, adjusting and operating linear amplifiers for SSB service, but hopefully that will not be necessary- as long as you use the Alpha products the way they were intended, they will provide an exceptionally clean signal year after year.

73's
Gordon, W0RUN

*Letter from the Director Of Do It All, Brad Focken, K0HM
*[image: Peter 1]Saving ports on the Alpha 9500.

The 9500 has so many features that sometimes pressing the right button at the right time can be a bit confusing. This month I wanted to write something about real life 9500 operating and first time set up for the automatic antenna ports.

The Alpha 9500 has four antenna port outputs on the back panel. Each is selectable from the front panel, and the amp can be set up to automatically select the correct port for any combination of Band/Segment selections. Each Alpha 9500 is shipped from the factory with antenna port 4 set as the default port for all amplifier memories.

I know that a number of our customers have more than one antenna and some have more than one antenna on a given band. We designed the automatic antenna selection on the 9500 so it would retain the settings in order to select the proper antenna when you switch bands and/or segments.

The antenna selector buttons have two functions. One function is selected when the LED flashes for about 5 seconds, while the other function is selected when the LED stays lit.

Let's start with a simple setup. Let's say you have one antenna that is for 10,15, and 20 meters and you don't use any of the lower frequencies. You have connected your antenna to port 1 on the back of the amp. To get the 9500 to stay on port 1 you will push the port 1 button twice. The button will begin flashing for 5 seconds. While the led is flashing, press the save button. The port button will stop flashing and the save led will flash once. What you just did was force the 9500 to make all bands on the amplifier use

antenna port 1 for all user memories.

The other function as mentioned above is the non-flashing mode. This sets the port one band and one segment at a time. Let's say you add a 40-meter beam to your system. Remember the default antenna port is now set to 1. We want to put the 40 meter beam on port 3 in the User 1 memory settings. To do this, first press User 1 and then press the 40 meter band switch on the front of the amp. Then press the segment 1 button on the front of the amp. Now select the antenna port 3 on the front of the amp and the user 1, segment 1 port 3 combination is set. The amplifier always remembers which antenna was last selected for each band and segment combination in each set of user memories (Default, User 1 or User 2). Simply progress through the segments on 40 meters, press the segment 2 button and then antenna 3, followed by segment 3 and antenna 3, segment 4 and antenna 3 and finally press the segment 5 button and antenna port 3. Do this to each segment in the band and the amplifier will save the port setting to that segment. When you have finished all 5 segments, move the 9500 off band and back to 40 meters and make sure it returns to the correct port. What you just did was save the 40 meter band to antenna port 3 one segment at a time for the User 1 memories.

The reason the 9500 does a save this way is to accommodate users who have two antennas per band. They might have one for CW and one for phone. Or save a 40 m vertical antenna in the User 2 memories and the 40 m beam antenna in the User 1 memories.

Remember to choose which set of memories to use (Default, User 1 or User 2) when you are saving individual antenna settings by band.

The settings can be reset to all one port if things go a little off the beaten path by reverting to step one, then start over.

73's Brad

Say Hello to Mike Adell, Director of Channel Sales. He's not a Ham yet, but he's working on it!

[image: Mike Adell Headshot]It is a pleasure to announce our partnership with the premier amateur and commercial radio resellers, Amateur Electronic Supply<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrfrZnTACnzp027_nkyUtJKrAI5OcefW01OMUgpTwCz9yJqcNgYDjlcsyMj3m3RdSgR1FH9huSDaElDcm8IfYIGyXAidwvPjQus=>(AES), Ham Radio Outlet<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRreuQh2fQ3Gwsfjx-NjZMUHZBtcyj2830WXxmqh-ObmYoN4Iw_BZcLaDcaJO6Hy-0xMMe4wSZ5nNs9b5jZLfZdIiWLYS6F7a0dg=>(HRO) in the US, and Radioworld<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103609612629&s=2269&e=001EZAvyKPmRrc66YPZzEqml8my_Wti7jKDM2fSAFt3cfv4n13H58-5F4I74aOKMgskxVPrllGTwEh2b4avqxEOPLkhtyaKkpxgHC8_Rypsw_624Ne-gBjOGg==>in Canada.

They are now equipped to recommend and sell you any and all Alpha products, some of which will be available at their locations or by mail order and some will be shipped directly from our Boulder facility. When you do buy from AES and HRO, and we ship, you will receive free shipping. Additionally, we will continue to offer the best amplifier product warranty in the industry with 4 years on parts and labor, one year on tubes and free shipping, both ways, when you have a problem within one year of your warranty.

Both AES with 4 locations and HRO with 12 stores have a wide range of coverage throughout mainland USA. They serve customer needs throughout the spectrum of power and range including individuals as well as federal and state government , public and private education systems.

Their employees are almost always long term ham operators and quite knowledgeable of the benefits and features of Alpha amplifiers and Alpha accessories. They have the understanding to recommend our product offerings based upon your distinct needs.

Go visit one of these locations in person or on line and let us know your opinion. Good, poor or indifferent, your opinion matters to them and us.

Mike

Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1103609612629>
[image: Safe Unsubscribe]<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWV9PgtovPUyVp_psY5iK8Xw%3D%3D&p=un>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by sales@rfconcepts.com.
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWV9PgtovPUyVp_psY5iK8Xw%3D%3D&p=oo>|
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsWV9PgtovPUyVp_psY5iK8Xw%3D%3D&p=un>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
Email Marketing <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>by <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>
RF Concepts LLC | 6185 Arapahoe Road | Boulder | CO | 80303

--
Tadej Arcon

657. Get your monthly personal copy of RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers newsletter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-12 08:57:12 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 657 Message: 657

Hi Group!

I just spoke to Michael, AA6DY and he was very appreciative that I would repost the Alpha newsletter on the reflector and asked that I continue. He also invited me to remind everyone that you can get on the mailing list by going to the site and entering your email address to get a copy directly.

Web site: http://www.rfconcepts.com/

73s Tadej S52X

658. New Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 20:09:54 UTC
From: johnwalker11167
Topic: 658 Message: 658

Hi everyone -

I just bought an 87A to so the 76 would have some company.

I look forward to reading the posts and gaining knowledge of a fine amp.

73-
W1JCW
John

659. Glenn at Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 20:12:17 UTC
From: johnwalker11167
Topic: 628 Message: 659

Glenn is a good guy and takes the time to speak with you about anything. I just spoke with him for about 15 mins about the 87A
I purchased.

He was helpful and in no rush to talk about the amp.

73-
W1JCW
John

660. Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 20:27:25 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 660

Howdy to this knowledgeable group,

FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here in El Paso ... and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm wanting to put my 87A on the air ... going to drive it with an ICOM IC-781 ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382 I have the external Fan and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc. However, this Amp has NEVER been out of the box since I purchased it many years ago while still in Houston ....

I'm concerned about what to do ... and what NOT to do ... to put this amp in service after so many years of living in it's original (ETO) shipping box ... I don't want to blow it up .... so any and all suggestions would be MOST appreciated!! Looking forward to FINALLY getting this wonderful amp on the air .....

I'm concerned about the power supply after being in storage for so many years ... will the caps blow up?? What should I do to bring life into this wonderful box ???

On Fri, Aug 13, 2010 at 2:12 PM, johnwalker11167 <w1jcw@hotmail.com> wrote:

>
>
>
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> just spoke with him for about 15 mins about the 87A
> I purchased.
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> He was helpful and in no rush to talk about the amp.
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org

Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

661. HELP Requested ....

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 20:49:15 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 661 Message: 661

Howdy to this knowledgeable group,

FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here in El Paso ... and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm wanting to put my 87A on the air ... going to drive it with an ICOM IC-781 ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382 I have the external Fan and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc. However, this Amp has NEVER been out of the box since I purchased it many years ago while still in Houston ....

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--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

662. Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 21:01:50 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 628 Message: 662

Hi Tom,

With most amps that have been sitting unused for some time
you would start them on a lower voltage and slowly bring them
up. You can't do this "as far as I know" with a 87a because of its
computer control. Hopefully someone else will help you with this.

What I will ask you is about your 781. I have also had a Icom 781
and many of them had a problem with a high spike at around 160w
for a few ms when keyed up, and this could cause problems to any
amp, The pin diodes in the 87a are not cheap. If you google the
problem you will find the fix for it.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
New Shack: http://www.g0hwc.com/latest_projects.html

From: Thomas Smith
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 9:27 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Howdy to this knowledgeable group,

FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here in El Paso ...
and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm wanting to put my 87A on the air
... going to drive it with an ICOM IC-781 ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382
I have the external Fan and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc.
However, this Amp has NEVER been out of the box since I purchased it many years ago while
still in Houston ....

I'm concerned about what to do ... and what NOT to do ... to put this amp in service after
so many years of living in it's original (ETO) shipping box ... I don't want to blow it up
.... so any and all suggestions would be MOST appreciated!! Looking forward to FINALLY
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On Fri, Aug 13, 2010 at 2:12 PM, johnwalker11167 <w1jcw@...> wrote:

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He was helpful and in no rush to talk about the amp.

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W1JCW
John

--
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M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
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Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.851 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3068 - Release Date: 08/13/10 07:34:00

663. 87A power up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 21:06:28 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 628 Message: 663

Nice shack pics Paul.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: Paul Young
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 4:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Hi Tom,

With most amps that have been sitting unused for some time
you would start them on a lower voltage and slowly bring them
up. You can't do this "as far as I know" with a 87a because of its
computer control. Hopefully someone else will help you with this.

What I will ask you is about your 781. I have also had a Icom 781
and many of them had a problem with a high spike at around 160w
for a few ms when keyed up, and this could cause problems to any
amp, The pin diodes in the 87a are not cheap. If you google the
problem you will find the fix for it.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
New Shack: http://www.g0hwc.com/latest_projects.html

664. Alpha long time no power up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-13 21:04:26 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 661 Message: 664

I am up here in Rockwall near Dallas.

Good question.

Call Glenn at alpha and see what he says.

Let us know what he says about it.

I would think it would be okay, other wise I would use a variac if available to you..why not..

73-
W1JCW
John

From: Thomas Smith
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] HELP Requested ....

Howdy to this knowledgeable group,

FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here in El Paso ... and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm wanting to put my 87A on the air ... going to drive it with an ICOM IC-781 ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382 I have the external Fan and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc. However, this Amp has NEVER been out of the box since I purchased it many years ago while still in Houston ....

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I'm concerned about the power supply after being in storage for so many years ... will the caps blow up?? What should I do to bring life into this wonderful box ???

--

665. Re:87A power up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-14 23:01:12 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 628 Message: 665

For any amp I like to bring them up slow, usually on a variac. but what ever you do I recommend you let it sit in stand by mode for a couple of hours with the rig in standby and with no input. then put it in operate and let it siot some more..

starting on a variac (or even put some light bulbs in series with the amp to drop the voltage down a bit,) is good for the caps, BUT the main reason I let it cook in standby then in High voltage with out transmitting is for the tubes to let the Getter scavenge the last bit of contamination from the tubes. Most tubes will "leak" in a few moleclules of air when not in use and the Getter takes care of this. Especially when the tubes cost 700 bucks each.!! so give Alpha a call and see what they say.

Bye the Bye, I make it a point to fire up all my tube gear at least once a month for a bit, just for this reason. I know that some tubes like a 3-500z dont use a warm up, but I do them as well, . google Getter and see what I mean. You can replace blown caps, but tubes get expensive.

Tom

N6AJR

666. With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 18:02:06 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 666 Message: 666

Hi group,

I'm a relatively new member of the group having bought a 87a earlier this year with serious issues that required someone with way more expertise than I to repair it. I sent the amp to Alpha in June to determine if it was worth repairing or if I should sell it "as is" . Alpha's estimate seemed reasonable so I approved the repair... After a rather lengthy stay (8 weeks) the amp was repaired. According to Molly the delay was not due to "waiting on parts" ,just a back-up in the lab. Because of the rather lengthy repair process Molly had them install the Alpha Max update at no charge. No one ever said exactally what was repaired but repair ticket shows they replaced 15 or so IC's and tested the amp .The amp is now in excellent shape. I have tested it into a dummy load on all bands with excellent results.

I have been using a Alpha 89 with a JW Miller AT 2500 antenna tuner.for a number of years with good results but the 87a is new to me. I would like some input from those who use their 87a on 80 & 40 meters. Should I put a tuner in line with the amp for these bands or will it work well with a resonate dipole on 80 & 40 withiout a tuner
Thanks for the input,

Jim
K5WLQ

667. RE: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 18:20:20 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 666 Message: 667

Jim,

A tuner will not be necessary as long as you operate within the resonate bandwidth presented by the dipole. My 87A doesn□t like anything much over and SWR of 1.8:1

The protection circuitry will switch the amp into Standby mode if operated into a higher SWR than that.

For that reason, I have an AT4K Palstar I can switch online. I have pre-sets I can set the tuner for once I go outside the edges of my resonate bandwidth.

It□s not automatic, but as long as I watch things, it□s almost transparent.
J

Jim

KBØX

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of JAMES HEYE
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 1:02 PM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Hi group,

I'm a relatively new member of the group having bought a 87a earlier this year with serious issues that required someone with way more expertise than I to repair it. I sent the amp to Alpha in June to determine if it was worth repairing or if I should sell it "as is" . Alpha's estimate seemed reasonable so I approved the repair... After a rather lengthy stay (8 weeks) the amp was repaired. According to Molly the delay was not due to "waiting on parts" ,just a back-up in the lab. Because of the rather lengthy repair process Molly had them install the Alpha Max update at no charge. No one ever said exactally what was repaired but repair ticket shows they replaced 15 or so IC's and tested the amp .The amp is now in excellent shape. I have tested it into a dummy load on all bands with excellent results.

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Thanks for the input,

Jim

K5WLQ

668. Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 18:24:04 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 668

I would certainly ask for a specific explanation as to work the issues were with the amp.

What was the cost of repairs ?

I always have my tuner in line on the output of the amp, either I bypass or use the tuner to tweak my feed line.
I have a beam, dipole, 43' vertical and trapped vertical.

Yes I would have your tuner in line on the output of the amp, if its rate for that much power .

73-
W1JCW
John

From: JAMES HEYE
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 1:02 PM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Hi group,

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Thanks for the input,

Jim
K5WLQ

669. RE: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 18:31:22 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 666 Message: 669

When I had a recent check-up performed on my 87A it was returned with document that detailed the test results and a detailed description of the parts replaced, etc. I wonder if Jim's paper work was misplaced??

73,

Dave

Wa3gin

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W1JCW
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 2:24 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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What was the cost of repairs ?

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Yes I would have your tuner in line on the output of the amp, if its rate for that much power .

73-

W1JCW

John

From: JAMES <mailto:james_heye@...> HEYE

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 1:02 PM

To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Hi group,

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Thanks for the input,

Jim

K5WLQ

670. Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 21:19:38 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 666 Message: 670

The paperwork I receive listed the parts that were replaced , (Mostl;y IC's and a couple of caps), the hours it took to complete the repair (5.5 hrs)and and a note written by thge tech (Brad) that said it had been teasted on all bands (ok) . It was also noted the amp was in good shape (minor scratches) the the tubes were ok.There were no detailed test results showing the input and output on each band. I guess I need to contact Molly and ask for detailed results.

Thanks for the input,

Jim
K5WLQ

From: David Jordan <wa3gin@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tue, August 17, 2010 1:31:22 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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73,
Dave
Wa3gin

From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W1JCW
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 2:24 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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John

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To:alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject:[Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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Thanks for the input,

Jim
K5WLQ

671. Re: [Alpha87a] Repair break down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 21:23:54 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 671

I certainly would want details for a future sale and history of the amp.

I like to have all paper work, specially after the cost.

What was the total cost of repairs ?

73-
W1JCW
John

From: JAMES HEYE
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 4:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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Thanks for the input,

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

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73-

W1JCW

John

672. Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 22:12:06 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 672

Still waiting on response to this from the Alpha 'Contact Us' page .....
Will keep you all informed ....

On Fri, Aug 13, 2010 at 2:27 PM, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:

> Howdy to this knowledgeable group,
>
> FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here
> in El Paso ... and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm
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> ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382 I have the external Fan
> and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc. However,
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> On Fri, Aug 13, 2010 at 2:12 PM, johnwalker11167 <w1jcw@hotmail.com>wrote:
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>> I purchased.
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>> He was helpful and in no rush to talk about the amp.
>>
>> 73-
>> W1JCW
>> John
>>
>>
>>

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> --
> de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
> M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
> Life Member ARRL arrl.org
> Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
> Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
> Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
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673. Fwd: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 22:31:50 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 673

Sorry for all of this ... It's just that I like 'Written' responses as so
many other type pof responses come back ... " Oh, I don't remember this"
....

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@ka5cdj.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 17, 2010 at 4:12 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Still waiting on response to this from the Alpha 'Contact Us' page .....
Will keep you all informed ....

On Fri, Aug 13, 2010 at 2:27 PM, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:

> Howdy to this knowledgeable group,
>
> FINALLY after relocating and moving back from Houston to My ole Home here
> in El Paso ... and finally getting 220 run into the shack here ... I'm
> wanting to put my 87A on the air ... going to drive it with an ICOM IC-781
> ... The Amp is a Alpha 87A serial number 92100382 I have the external Fan
> and all of the software (firmware) upgrades like Alpha Max etc. However,
> this Amp has NEVER been out of the box since I purchased it many years ago
> while still in Houston ....
>
> I'm concerned about what to do ... and what NOT to do ... to put this amp
> in service after so many years of living in it's original (ETO) shipping box
> ... I don't want to blow it up .... so any and all suggestions would be MOST
> appreciated!! Looking forward to FINALLY getting this wonderful amp on the
> air .....
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674. Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-17 22:32:17 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 628 Message: 674

I would call there and ask for him.

I am not sure how often they check and reply to emails.

I called and spoke with him right away and for 10 mins too, he wasn’t in a rush at all.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: Thomas Smith
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 5:12 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Glenn at Alpha

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675. Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-18 20:19:36 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 666 Message: 675

Hello Jim and the group,

When we repair an 87A we typically do not write down Tune and Load setting on paperwork, since they are stored in the amplifier memories. We test the amp on all bands and save the settings in the USER memories if they have changed dramatically. We do try NOT to change the USER memories because those may already have been set by the owner for his antennas.

Below is a set of notes that will outline the best way to use the AlphaMax firmware when it is installed in an 87A Following these guidelines will ensure that the amplifier goes to the best settings quickly for your antennas, and it can still retune if parameters have changed.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
www.rfconcepts.com

Alpha 87A and AlphaMax Firmware - Tuning

*
*

When the new (since 1999) AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A, the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax program would do if it was enabled.

An addendum to the 87A manual was included with AlphaMax kits that were installed in the field, or you can download a copy of the new version of the 87A manual (with instructions for using AlphaMax) from our web site:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Schematics_5

You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and save the settings in USER memories. When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50 ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out,

fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't always as useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

On Tue, Aug 17, 2010 at 12:02 PM, JAMES HEYE <james_heye@...>wrote:

> Hi group,
> I'm a relatively new member of the group having bought a 87a earlier this
> year with serious issues that required someone with way more expertise
> than I to repair it. I sent the amp to Alpha in June to determine if it was
> worth repairing or if I should sell it "as is" . Alpha's estimate seemed
> reasonable so I approved the repair... After a rather lengthy stay (8
> weeks) the amp was repaired. According to Molly the delay was not due to
> "waiting on parts" ,just a back-up in the lab. Because of the rather lengthy
> repair process Molly had them install the Alpha Max update at no charge. No
> one ever said exactally what was repaired but repair ticket shows they
> replaced 15 or so IC's and tested the amp .The amp is now in excellent
> shape. I have tested it into a dummy load on all bands with excellent
> results.
>
> I have been using a Alpha 89 with a JW Miller AT 2500 antenna tuner.for a
> number of years with good results but the 87a is new to me. I would like
> some input from those who use their 87a on 80 & 40 meters. Should I put a
> tuner in line with the amp for these bands or will it work well with a
> resonate dipole on 80 & 40 withiout a tuner
> Thanks for the input,
>
> Jim

```
> K5WLQ
> __._,_.__
>
```

676. Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-19 17:19:07 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 666 Message: 676

Glenn & Group,

I really appericiate Glenn's reply explaining my concerns about how the amp was tested when it was in their lab for repair. Glenn's replay makes a lot of sense.... Live and Learn.

Thanks again Glenn,
Jimn
K5WLQ

From: Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, August 18, 2010 3:19:36 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] With or without a antenna tuner

Hello Jim and the group,

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>40 withiout a tuner
>Thanks for the input,
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>Jim
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677. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 00:38:54 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 677

Yes, I think I shall .... the reply I got from Molly did not give me a very warm feeling .... I'd HATE to see this thing blow up now !!

Molly's response:

Update for Case #3245 - "Power-Up ...."
Hi Brad,

Thanks for your email about your Alpha 87A. Hard to believe that you were so patient to leave it in the box for so long and I'm very pleased to hear that you will be able to get on the air in your new location.

There isn't a way to bring the 87A up slowly, so our recommendation is that you first thoroughly inspect the interior of the amplifier for any possible damage or rust, then blow out the amplifier - you probably have some dust that has accumulated. Finally turn the amp on and let it warm up and I would let it sit without attempting to transmit into it for at least an hour, maybe 2.

At that point - put it into operate and go for it.

73,
Molly, WØMOM

My first concern is if it's been in the Original ETO Shipping box all this time how could it have collected any dust ???

Second no concern on hours of warm up on some VERY expensive Tubes ... Not to mention waiting sometime to apply High Voltage ....

Did I mention I also have an Alpha 87-DAS still in it's hipping box .... Was looking forward to putting a FIRST Class Station on the air ....

BTW, My ICOM IC-781 has never demonstrated that Output spike that others have mentioned (been monitored with a scope), Mine is a VERY Early Serial Number ... Could Not wait to get my hands on this fine piece of gear ... and yes I've also looked at and verified that mine must have been in the production run that did not exhibit this problem ... have been here and checked components and mine seem to be correct:

I also noticed a severe power spike on transmit at the leading edge with serial # 03156 (late production purchased 11/20/2000) versus early production serial #01285, which performed flawlessly. Any amplifier using 3CX800A7’s, and equipped with a properly working Grid Trip system, simply will not allow operation with such an exciter fault. It will (or should) trip/fault immediately.

Close inspection showed virtually no changes in the IF unit PC board version and schematic between the two date code units, but the later unit experienced unusable transmit power spikes upon start of PTT in all modes.

The problem turned out to be the following:

2. R108 was populated as 4.7K versus 100 ohms.

3. R112 (4.7K) and R109 (4.7K) were both populated as 1K.

In all five cases, the early unit was populated per the schematic in the Service Manual, and the new unit, after changes to agree with the schematic, performed flawlessly.

In summary, final values for these components per the schematic should be:

C47 = 2.2µF, be sure to observe polarity

C48 = 0.47µF, be sure to observe polarity

R108 = 100 ohms

R109 = 4.7K

R112 = 4.7K

These changes (to originally designed) values result in identical, flawless performance of the ALC system.

At this time I'm not very satisfied with thier Customer care for sure ....

678. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:15:02 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 628 Message: 678

Alpha's outlook is that if it blows up they have your business.

They are very expensive and have some real BS fees in my opinion.

I like the folks that work there but they have to cut some slack in respect to THEIR HANDLING CHARGES!

I would power it up and let it run for 24hrs, what I call a burn in period then you should be good.

I feel that the level of components and their stability is good and you should have no problem.
I have an 87A and would do as I indicated here.

I see your point about the nonchalant reply from Molly but after all she has many amps at her disposal..

John

From: Thomas Smith
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:38 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

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Molly's response:

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679. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:19:18 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 628 Message: 679

I guess I fail to see the issue Tom.

Molly is as near an expert as you are going to find.

Are you familiar with who she is??

Her comment regarding internal inspection prior to power-up is a good one….whether it be for dust or to simply make certain nothing has loosened since it was packed. Even though the amp has been boxed up, you would be surprised how dust can find its way into things. A good inspection to check all connections, especially the power supply connections would also be in order.

I hope you simply follow Molly’s advice. You’ll be much happier once the amp is on the air.

Best 73,

Jim

KBØX

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Thomas Smith
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

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680. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:27:34 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 680

I certainly agree about looking at connections but for DUST in a BOX that has never been opened ... just kinda stuck me wrong .... After all I have to mount the transformer right !! I would think that anybody would look at things to see if they looked correct .... I'm just worried about the Caps !!

On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:19 PM, Jim Walker <jim@...> wrote:

>
>
> I guess I fail to see the issue Tom.
>
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>
> Molly is as near an expert as you are going to find.
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> Are you familiar with who she is??
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> one….whether it be for dust or to simply make certain nothing has loosened
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> all connections, especially the power supply connections would also be in
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> I hope you simply follow Molly's advice. You'll be much happier once the
> amp is on the air.
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> Best 73,
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> Jim
>
> KBØX
>
>
>

> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Thomas Smith
> *Sent:* Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:39 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service
>
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> Yes, I think I shall .... the reply I got from Molly did not give me a
> very warm feeling .... I'd HATE to see this thing blow up now !!
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> Molly's response:
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> Update for Case #3245 - "Power-Up ...."
> Hi Brad,
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> so patient to leave it in the box for so long and I'm very pleased to hear
> that you will be able to get on the air in your new location.
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> damage or rust, then blow out the amplifier - you probably have some dust
> that has accumulated. Finally turn the amp on and let it warm up and I
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> At that point - put it into operate and go for it.
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> to mention waiting sometime to apply High Voltage ....
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> Was looking forward to putting a FIRST Class Station on the air ....
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> BTW, My ICOM IC-781 has never demonstrated that Output spike that others
> have mentioned (been monitored with a scope), Mine is a VERY Early Serial
> Number ... Could Not wait to get my hands on this fine piece of gear ... and
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de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
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Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

681. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:30:53 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 681

BTW, this in NOT the First Alpha Amp I've ever owned .... but all the older ones were from ETO .... Many years ago .... that's why I guess I continue to own and promote ALPHA .... this one question just has me really concerned .... I DON'T want to have it BLOW-UP on first power up ....

On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:19 PM, Jim Walker <jim@...> wrote:

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> *Sent:* Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:39 PM
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682. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:39:16 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 682

I guess what I'd really like to do is trade in all this Alpha 87-A and my DAS switch and all the upgrades for the 87-A in for a Nice Brand New 9500 .... BUT now being retired, I just don't see a way I could do that ..... Long Live ALPHA .... I DO Love'em !!! Just want to get this one on the air with out a Big Bomb here in my shack ....

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> Behalf Of *Thomas Smith
> *Sent:* Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:39 PM
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683. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:43:01 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 683

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Sorry Jim did not answer your question .... No I don't know who Molly is
.... have never dealt with her before ...

On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:19 PM, Jim Walker <jim@...> wrote:
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684. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 01:52:19 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 628 Message: 684

I’d dust it out and turn it on –and leave it on for maybe 12 hours hooked up to a dummy load. Don’t transmit. It is possible that the filter caps have gone flat or are leaky, but I suspect not. It is possible the tubes might have a flashover or two. The amp is pretty well protected and it will probably give a soft trip, a hard trip, or blow a fuse before any damage occurs. If the amp was built around 1994 or so the tubes could have been made in a period when there was a problem with sagging grids. Some of the gurus like Carl (KM1H I think)on the Amps reflector could probably give you the range in which the tubes had a problem. If you see the grid drive requirements start to go up after a month or so of use and you have not been abusing the amp, you probably have tubes from the period when Eimac sold that business to another company but did not send the personnel who actually knew how to build the tubes.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Thomas Smith
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 9:39 PM
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Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

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685. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 02:02:03 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 685

Thanks, I'll look out for that ... My Amp was Built in 1992 .... Serial Number 92100382

On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:52 PM, Robert Carroll <w2wg@comcast.net> wrote:

>
>
> I’d dust it out and turn it on –and leave it on for maybe 12 hours hooked
> up to a dummy load. Don’t transmit. It is possible that the filter caps
> have gone flat or are leaky, but I suspect not. It is possible the tubes
> might have a flashover or two. The amp is pretty well protected and it will
> probably give a soft trip, a hard trip, or blow a fuse before any damage
> occurs. If the amp was built around 1994 or so the tubes could have been
> made in a period when there was a problem with sagging grids. Some of the
> gurus like Carl (KM1H I think)on the Amps reflector could probably give you
> the range in which the tubes had a problem. If you see the grid drive
> requirements start to go up after a month or so of use and you have not been
> abusing the amp, you probably have tubes from the period when Eimac sold
> that business to another company but did not send the personnel who actually
> knew how to build the tubes.
>
>
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Thomas Smith
> *Sent:* Thursday, August 19, 2010 9:39 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service
>
>
>
>
>
> I guess what I'd really like to do is trade in all this Alpha 87-A and my
> DAS switch and all the upgrades for the 87-A in for a Nice Brand New 9500
> .... BUT now being retired, I just don't see a way I could do that .....
> Long Live ALPHA .... I DO Love'em !!! Just want to get this one on the air
> with out a Big Bomb here in my shack ....
>
> On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:19 PM, Jim Walker <jim@walkersdomain.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> I guess I fail to see the issue Tom.

>
>
>
> Molly is as near an expert as you are going to find.
>
>
>
> Are you familiar with who she is??
>
>
>
> Her comment regarding internal inspection prior to power-up is a good
> one….whether it be for dust or to simply make certain nothing has loosened
> since it was packed. Even though the amp has been boxed up, you would be
> surprised how dust can find its way into things. A good inspection to check
> all connections, especially the power supply connections would also be in
> order.
>
>
>
> I hope you simply follow Molly's advice. You'll be much happier once the
> amp is on the air.
>
>
>
> Best 73,
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> KBØX
>
>
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Thomas Smith
> *Sent:* Thursday, August 19, 2010 7:39 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service
>
>
>
>
>
> Yes, I think I shall .... the reply I got from Molly did not give me a
> very warm feeling .... I'd HATE to see this thing blow up now !!
>
>

>
> Molly's response:
>
>
>
> Update for Case #3245 - "Power-Up ...."
> Hi Brad,
>
> Thanks for your email about your Alpha 87A. Hard to believe that you were
> so patient to leave it in the box for so long and I'm very pleased to hear
> that you will be able to get on the air in your new location.
>
> There isn't a way to bring the 87A up slowly, so our recommendation is that
> you first thoroughly inspect the interior of the amplifier for any possible
> damage or rust, then blow out the amplifier - you probably have some dust
> that has accumulated. Finally turn the amp on and let it warm up and I
> would let it sit without attempting to transmit into it for at least an
> hour, maybe 2.
>
> At that point - put it into operate and go for it.
>
> 73,
> Molly, WØMOM
>
>
>
> My first concern is if it's been in the Original ETO Shipping box all this
> time how could it have collected any dust ???
>
>
>
> Second no concern on hours of warm up on some VERY expensive Tubes ... Not
> to mention waiting sometime to apply High Voltage ....
>
>
>
> Did I mention I also have an Alpha 87-DAS still in it's hipping box ....
> Was looking forward to putting a FIRST Class Station on the air ....
>
>
>
> BTW, My ICOM IC-781 has never demonstrated that Output spike that others
> have mentioned (been monitored with a scope), Mine is a VERY Early Serial
> Number ... Could Not wait to get my hands on this fine piece of gear ... and
> yes I've also looked at and verified that mine must have been in the
> production run that did not exhibit this problem ... have been here and
> checked components and mine seem to be correct:
>
>

>
> I also noticed a severe power spike on transmit at the leading edge with
> serial # 03156 (late production purchased 11/20/2000) versus early
> production serial #01285, which performed flawlessly. Any amplifier using
> 3CX800A7's, and equipped with a properly working Grid Trip system, simply
> will not allow operation with such an exciter fault. It will (or should)
> trip/fault immediately.
>
> Close inspection showed virtually no changes in the IF unit PC board
> version and schematic between the two date code units, but the later unit
> experienced unusable transmit power spikes upon start of PTT in all modes.
>
>
> The problem turned out to be the following:
>
> 2. R108 was populated as 4.7K versus 100 ohms.
>
> 3. R112 (4.7K) and R109 (4.7K) were both populated as 1K.
>
> In all five cases, the early unit was populated per the schematic in the
> Service Manual, and the new unit, after changes to agree with the schematic,
> performed flawlessly.
>
> In summary, final values for these components per the schematic should be:
>
> C47 = 2.2µF, be sure to observe polarity
>
> C48 = 0.47µF, be sure to observe polarity
>
> R108 = 100 ohms
>
> R109 = 4.7K
>
> R112 = 4.7K
>
> These changes (to originally designed) values result in identical, flawless
> performance of the ALC system.
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> At this time I'm not very satisfied with thier Customer care for sure ....
>
>
>
>

>
>
>
>
> --
> de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
> M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
> Life Member ARRL arrl.org
> Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
> Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
> Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
> Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
> Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
> Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org
>
>
>

--
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Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

686. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 13:54:31 UTC
From: W4ABW@aol.com
Topic: 628 Message: 686

Folks, I have the Alpha 89 and it was sitting up for a long time. I asked Molly about start-up and she told me the same thing. Dust it out, bring it up, don't xmit right away. I did this and it worked FB. I later had an unrelated failure, maybe a year later. It was fixed and works as new. These Alphas are tough birds.

Al
W4ABW

687. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 14:24:50 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 687

I'm just hoping that my 87A will do the same thing .... ya I know it's OLD
but NEW too .... just wish I could have placed it in service years ago ...
so fingers crossed here we go .... LONG LIVE Alpha !!!

On Fri, Aug 20, 2010 at 7:54 AM, <W4ABW@...> wrote:

>
>
> Folks, I have the Alpha 89 and it was sitting up for a long time. I asked
> Molly about start-up and she told me the same thing. Dust it out, bring it
> up, don't xmit right away. I did this and it worked FB. I later had an
> unrelated failure, maybe a year later. It was fixed and works as new. These
> Alphas are tough birds.
>
> Al
> W4ABW
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

688. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 14:54:03 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 628 Message: 688

Hello Brad and the Group,

On earlier 87A/89 amplifiers, ETO would burn-in HV filter capacitors with voltage applied and then measure leakage current and match them in groups. They stopped burning-in filter caps in the late 90's because manufacturing tolerances and standards were improving and capacitors had not been failing.

Brad's 87A was made in the early 90's, so the HV filter caps were conditioned and hand matched, so they should be OK. As already noted by others, the step-start circuit in Alpha amps means that you cannot ramp up the AC input voltage slowly.
The step-start circuit protects the tubes from a big surge of inrush current through the cold tube filaments. The inrush current limiting resistor in the AC line is shorted out in less than a second by the step-start relay.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:27 PM, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:

> <snip> I'm just worried about the Caps !!
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

689. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-20 15:29:54 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 628 Message: 689

Breathing a sigh of relief .... Just DON'T want this thing Blowing up in the shack .... have waited a LONG time to put this thing on the air !!!

On Fri, Aug 20, 2010 at 8:54 AM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

>
>
> Hello Brad and the Group,
>
> On earlier 87A/89 amplifiers, ETO would burn-in HV filter capacitors with
> voltage applied and then measure leakage current and match them in groups.
> They stopped burning-in filter caps in the late 90's because manufacturing
> tolerances and standards were improving and capacitors had not been failing.
>
> Brad's 87A was made in the early 90's, so the HV filter caps were
> conditioned and hand matched, so they should be OK. As already noted by
> others, the step-start circuit in Alpha amps means that you cannot ramp up
> the AC input voltage slowly.
> The step-start circuit protects the tubes from a big surge of inrush
> current through the cold tube filaments. The inrush current limiting
> resistor in the AC line is shorted out in less than a second by the
> step-start relay.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Thu, Aug 19, 2010 at 7:27 PM, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
>> <snip> I'm just worried about the Caps !!
>>
>
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
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Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

690. source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-28 13:34:51 UTC
From: k0xb3
Topic: 690 Message: 690

Does anyone have information on sources to buy "medical pulls" 3CX800A7 tubes?

Thanks, Rick K0XB

691. Re: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-28 22:13:56 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 690 Message: 691

Hi,

I do not know in US, but DK3EE has some good used tubes.

73s Tadej S52X

2010/8/28 k0xb3 <rickb@...>

>
>
> Does anyone have information on sources to buy "medical pulls" 3CX800A7
> tubes?
>
> Thanks, Rick K0XB
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon

692. RE: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-28 22:29:38 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 690 Message: 692

Try RF Parts (Google them) for medical pulls. Note - Alpha does not recommend the use of Medical Pulls (Pulse rated). They have sound technical reasons for this. You may wish to talk with them before putting your money on the line. No question, they are cheaper but..

73 & Good luck

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of k0xb3
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2010 6:35 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Does anyone have information on sources to buy "medical pulls" 3CX800A7 tubes?

Thanks, Rick K0XB

693. Re: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-28 23:14:49 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 690 Message: 693

I have read about Alpha's reasons but they seem to be attributed to they want you to pay $800 per pair and make more $$
on you..

Most folks just don't have this kind of money when prices are over charged.

I am picking up my 87A tomorrow and I know it was back to Alpha for their tubes and a tune up, the handling
cost is ridiculous though.

How many of you have gone another route for tubes besides what Alpha sells and what has been your experience ??

73-
W1JCW
John

From: James Denneny
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2010 5:29 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Try RF Parts (Google them) for medical pulls. Note - Alpha does not recommend the use of Medical Pulls (Pulse rated). They have sound technical reasons for this. You may wish to talk with them before putting your money on the line. No question, they are cheaper but..

73 & Good luck

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of k0xb3
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2010 6:35 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Does anyone have information on sources to buy "medical pulls" 3CX800A7 tubes?

Thanks, Rick K0XB

694. Re: source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-08-30 15:16:03 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 690 Message: 694

I bought a "matched pair" of brand new Eimac 3CX800A7 for $1350 from Eimac.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k0xb3" <rickb@...> wrote:
>
> Does anyone have information on sources to buy "medical pulls" 3CX800A7 tubes?
>
> Thanks, Rick K0XB
>

695. Re: source for 3CX800A7 tubes?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-01 20:07:09 UTC
From: k0xb3
Topic: 690 Message: 695

Thanks for the replies guys. Your advice has been helpful.

73, Rick K0XB

696. No power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 00:17:39 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 696

I just picked up an 87A and it wont power up.

All plugs are seated and re-seated.

Fuses are good.

It's wired for 240v

Suggestions ??

73-
W1JCW
John

697. RE: [Alpha87a] No power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 00:35:44 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 666 Message: 697

Be sure the microswitch in the top center of the amplifier, visible when the cover is off, is being pressed down by the actuating arm when the cover is reseated and attached.

When mine came back from service, the actuating arm, which is a thin strip of springy metal, had been bent so the microswitch wasn't being closed. I surmised that might have been done to check out the amplifier with voltage applied (defeating the safety switch).

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W1JCW
Sent: September 03, 2010 19:18
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power

I just picked up an 87A and it wont power up.

All plugs are seated and re-seated.

Fuses are good.

It's wired for 240v

Suggestions ??

73-

W1JCW

John

698. Re: [Alpha87a] No power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 00:48:26 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 698

That's okay I already checked that..

From: Jim McDonald
Sent: Friday, September 03, 2010 7:35 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] No power

Be sure the microswitch in the top center of the amplifier, visible when the cover is off, is being pressed down by the actuating arm when the cover is reseated and attached.

When mine came back from service, the actuating arm, which is a thin strip of springy metal, had been bent so the microswitch wasn't being closed. I surmised that might have been done to check out the amplifier with voltage applied (defeating the safety switch).

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W1JCW
Sent: September 03, 2010 19:18
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power

I just picked up an 87A and it wont power up.

All plugs are seated and re-seated.

Fuses are good.

It's wired for 240v

Suggestions ??

73-

W1JCW

John

699. Re: [Alpha87a] No power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 10:33:34 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 666 Message: 699

Hi John,

you would be best to connect the amp up to your computer
just plug it in and connect to pc and you will be able to talk to
it and see the fault codes. Even without the amp powering up.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.truckcam.tv
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of W1JCW
Sent: September 03, 2010 19:18
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power

I just picked up an 87A and it wont power up.

All plugs are seated and re-seated.

Fuses are good.

It's wired for 240v

Suggestions ??

73-

W1JCW

John

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 9.0.851 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3111 - Release Date: 09/03/10 07:34:00

700. Re: No power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 15:59:38 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 666 Message: 700

I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.

If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six hardware faults in a row without a clean start. When that happens, the amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.

As Paul says, you can hookup a PC to the 87A to communicate with the CPU and find out what's wrong. If you are unable to get the PC to communicate with the amp, and you're sure you have the cable, baud rate and PC terminal program settings correct, then there may be a problem with the 5V supply or with the CPU/logic board.

Once communication is established, you can use the PC to display the last eight fault codes and determine the fault code or codes that caused the lockup. You can also use the PC to unlock the amp and start it. Alpha can give you the procedure to do that, or someone on the list may know how to do it.

Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the amp from serious hardware faults. Unlocking and starting the amp may cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> I just picked up an 87A and it wont power up.
>
> All plugs are seated and re-seated.
>
> Fuses are good.
>
> It's wired for 240v
>
> Suggestions ??
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>

701. No power boot up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-04 18:19:20 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 701

Guys -

I didn't realize I could get information from the amp with out it being powered up.

I will get my cable interfaced Sunday and go through what the manual suggests. I will give Alpha a call first thing
Monday to see what they say as well.

Yes the fuse near the ms is good, checked it with the meter as well and in line fuses too.

The guy who had the amp before me had it up and running 2 days before I picked it up. I have not spoke with him yet
as he is out of town. I wanted to ask him if he knew of any hard faults but then I don't think he had a PC interfaced with the amp
either.

Glad I still have my 76 if I have to send this one out but I don't think the problem is that drastic.

Does anyone know of the procedure to unlock the amp to start it ?

Thanks for the suggestions.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: dickgreen03755
Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power

I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.

If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six hardware faults in a row without a clean start. When that happens, the amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.

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Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the amp from serious hardware faults. Unlocking and starting the amp may cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.

73, Dick WC1M

702. No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 03:24:46 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 702

Still no luck, I worked with alpha today for 3hrs !!

There is a fuse inside the low voltage section, I was hoping it was blown but nooo...

I checked voltages that drive the computer from this voltage section and all outputs were good.

I also checked plug voltages behind the face plate on the top right too.

Brad from alpha thinks it's the processor.

I am going to call Molly tomorrow to get an RA and talk about things I hope to get a processor to try or just send
the controller board in.

I don't want to send the entire amp in, as the shipping and handling is expensive.

I will update you.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: dickgreen03755
Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power

I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.

If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six hardware faults in a row without a clean start. When that happens, the amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.

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Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the amp from serious hardware faults. Unlocking and starting the amp may cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.

73, Dick WC1M

703. Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 12:35:52 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 666 Message: 703

I would send the whole amp in except for maybe the transformer. The xfer is one heavy sucker - that will save some $$$ on shipping.

I bought my 87A used and it started having some issues. I was starting to get frustrated with it and decided to just send it in. That was the best money spent. I don't have time for flakey equipment.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> Still no luck, I worked with alpha today for 3hrs !!
>
> There is a fuse inside the low voltage section, I was hoping it was blown but nooo...
>
> I checked voltages that drive the computer from this voltage section and all outputs were good.
>
> I also checked plug voltages behind the face plate on the top right too.
>
> Brad from alpha thinks it's the processor.
>
> I am going to call Molly tomorrow to get an RA and talk about things I hope to get a processor to try or just send
> the controller board in.
>
> I don't want to send the entire amp in, as the shipping and handling is expensive.
>
> I will update you.
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>
>
> From: dickgreen03755
> Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:59 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power
>
>
>
> I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.
>
> If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six hardware faults in a

row without a clean start. When that happens, the amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.
>
> As Paul says, you can hookup a PC to the 87A to communicate with the CPU and find out what's wrong. If you are unable to get the PC to communicate with the amp, and you're sure you have the cable, baud rate and PC terminal program settings correct, then there may be a problem with the 5V supply or with the CPU/logic board.
>
> Once communication is established, you can use the PC to display the last eight fault codes and determine the fault code or codes that caused the lockup. You can also use the PC to unlock the amp and start it. Alpha can give you the procedure to do that, or someone on the list may know how to do it.
>
> Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the amp from serious hardware faults. Unlocking and starting the amp may cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>

704. Re: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 13:24:13 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 666 Message: 704

John

Sorry for all of the problems your having with the new 87A. Will be most interested in the final outcome.. I have two 87A amps and love them.

Tom K4XG

In a message dated 9/7/2010 10:28:02 P.M. Central Daylight Time, w1jcw@... writes:

Still no luck, I worked with alpha today for 3hrs !!

There is a fuse inside the low voltage section, I was hoping it was blown but nooo...

I checked voltages that drive the computer from this voltage section and all outputs were good.

I also checked plug voltages behind the face plate on the top right too.

Brad from alpha thinks it’s the processor.

I am going to call Molly tomorrow to get an RA and talk about things I hope to get a processor to try or just send
the controller board in.

I don’t want to send the entire amp in, as the shipping and handling is expensive.

I will update you.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: _dickgreen03755_ (mailto:wc1m73@...)
Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:59 AM
To: _Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com_ (mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com)
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power

I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.

If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six hardware faults in a row without a clean start. When that happens, the amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.

As Paul says, you can hookup a PC to the 87A to communicate with the CPU and find out what's wrong. If you are unable to get the PC to communicate

with the amp, and you're sure you have the cable, baud rate and PC terminal program settings correct, then there may be a problem with the 5V supply or with the CPU/logic board.

Once communication is established, you can use the PC to display the last eight fault codes and determine the fault code or codes that caused the lockup. You can also use the PC to unlock the amp and start it. Alpha can give you the procedure to do that, or someone on the list may know how to do it.

Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the amp from serious hardware faults. Unlocking and starting the amp may cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.

73, Dick WC1M

705. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 13:55:59 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 666 Message: 705

Alpha charges extra if you include the transformer - don't ship it.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 9/8/2010 6:35 AM, D. wrote:
>
> I would send the whole amp in except for maybe the transformer. The
> xfer is one heavy sucker - that will save some $$$ on shipping.
>
> I bought my 87A used and it started having some issues. I was starting
> to get frustrated with it and decided to just send it in. That was the
> best money spent. I don't have time for flakey equipment.
>
> D.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
> >
> > Still no luck, I worked with alpha today for 3hrs !!
> >
> > There is a fuse inside the low voltage section, I was hoping it was
> blown but nooo...
> >
> > I checked voltages that drive the computer from this voltage section
> and all outputs were good.
> >
> > I also checked plug voltages behind the face plate on the top right too.
> >
> > Brad from alpha thinks it's the processor.
> >
> > I am going to call Molly tomorrow to get an RA and talk about things
> I hope to get a processor to try or just send
> > the controller board in.
> >
> > I don't want to send the entire amp in, as the shipping and handling
> is expensive.
> >
> > I will update you.
> >
> > 73-
> > W1JCW
> > John
> >

> >
> > From: dickgreen03755
> > Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2010 10:59 AM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power
> >
> >
> >
> > I assume you checked the small fuse in the 5V power supply line
> that's near the microswitch, as well as both fuses on the back panel.
> >
> > If so, then a likely explanation is that the amp had more than six
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> amp goes into lockup mode and won't start.
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> CPU and find out what's wrong. If you are unable to get the PC to
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> rate and PC terminal program settings correct, then there may be a
> problem with the 5V supply or with the CPU/logic board.
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> caused the lockup. You can also use the PC to unlock the amp and start
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> list may know how to do it.
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> > Bear in mind, however, that the lockup mode is there to protect the
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> cause further damage. Your best bet is to get the fault codes and
> attempt to determine what caused them before attempting to start the amp.
> >
> > 73, Dick WC1M
> >
>
>
>
>
>
> No virus found in this incoming message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 9.0.851 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/3120 - Release Date: 09/07/10 12:43:00
>

706. Re:No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 14:35:24 UTC
From: k2wd@comcast.net
Topic: 666 Message: 706

Any luck with the serial port diagnostics?

It is possible the firmware eprom has lost some of its bits from age or a static discharge. By any remote chance do you have the pre-Alphamax firmware eprom chip, left over from the upgrade, still around to swap back in?

Or, if by some chance you have an eprom reader/programmer, can you verify the checksum of the chip?

I've seen one 87A fail in this way due to a bad eprom.

Eric
K2CB
Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

707. No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-08 20:36:38 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 707

In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by removing the controller board myself and sending in.

They will check it over and replace what is needed.

I thought about sending the entire amp in but I can remove the controller myself and I will save a lot in shipping as well.

Right now the price is sitting at $135 for one hour lab and work.

A new controller board would cost around $700 Molly said so repairing this one seems like the way to go.

I will take pics when removing it for my assembly benefit and others can learn from it too.

This is quite the interesting repair.

Stay tuned..

73-
W1JCW
John

708. Re: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 00:06:40 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 666 Message: 708

John,

Keep us posted.

Good luck!.
Jim
K5WLQ

From: W1JCW <w1jcw@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, September 8, 2010 3:36:38 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by removing the controller board myself and sending in.

They will check it over and replace what is needed.

I thought about sending the entire amp in but I can remove the controller myself and I will save a lot in shipping as well.

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This is quite the interesting repair.

Stay tuned..

73-
W1JCW
John

Yahoo! Groups Links

http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

709. Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 16:24:00 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 709

Guys -

The control board is out, that only took about 10 mins after taking many pics.
Seven screws and many interface cables but pretty simple over all.

Hopefully alpha can flash the eprom and that will fix it, the processor and eprom are not "that" expensive per Molly.

Cross your fingers for me, other wise its going back to the original owner as he only want to spend about $200 fixing it.

If anyone wants to see some pics let me know.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...>
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:36 PM
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

> In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
> removing the controller board myself and sending in.
>
> They will check it over and replace what is needed.
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>
> This is quite the interesting repair.
>
> Stay tuned..
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John

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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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710. Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 16:43:15 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 666 Message: 710

John,

That's a reasonable price, but if you haven't pulled the board and sent it in yet, I suggest you look very carefully for any loose connections in the vicinity of the CPU board. Although Brad has uncanny ability to nail the cause of 87A problems (shortly I'll post a story about how he recently did that for my 87A), it seems odd to me that the previous owner had the amp up and running, then the CPU failed when you got the amp. Spontaneous complete failure of a microprocessor is pretty rare. I understand that it's possible for the EEPROM to fail over time, so that's a possibility, though not one that's been reported frequently.

To me, the symptoms suggest a loose connection resulting from moving the amp. That said, I understand you tested voltages at the connectors at the top of the CPU board and they were normal. But I think there are other connections below. Not many chips are socketed on that board, but if there are any you should make sure they're fully seated. It's worth a few minutes to verify that the problem is really a bad chip.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
> removing the controller board myself and sending in.
>
> They will check it over and replace what is needed.
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> This is quite the interesting repair.
>
> Stay tuned..
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>

711. Re: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 16:47:12 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 666 Message: 711

I'd LOVE to see the pictures ...

73,

On Thu, Sep 9, 2010 at 10:24 AM, W1JCW <w1jcw@...> wrote:

> Guys -
>
> The control board is out, that only took about 10 mins after taking many
> pics.
> Seven screws and many interface cables but pretty simple over all.
>
> Hopefully alpha can flash the eprom and that will fix it, the processor and
> eprom are not "that" expensive per Molly.
>
> Cross your fingers for me, other wise its going back to the original owner
> as he only want to spend about $200 fixing it.
>
> If anyone wants to see some pics let me know.
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>
>
> ----------
> From: "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...>
> Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:36 PM
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface
>
> > In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
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> > John
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

712. RE: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 17:00:42 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 666 Message: 712

John
I would like to see the pictures also

lclark@...

73 Larry K1ZW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Thomas Smith
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 12:47 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

I'd LOVE to see the pictures ...

73,
On Thu, Sep 9, 2010 at 10:24 AM, W1JCW <w1jcw@...> wrote:
Guys -

The control board is out, that only took about 10 mins after taking many
pics.
Seven screws and many interface cables but pretty simple over all.

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eprom are not "that" expensive per Molly.

Cross your fingers for me, other wise its going back to the original owner
as he only want to spend about $200 fixing it.

If anyone wants to see some pics let me know.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...>
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:36 PM
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
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Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org
Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

713. No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-09 17:43:56 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 713

Dick -

I went through every connection and reseated them as well. Reseated the chips that were socketed as well.

Absolutely no comms at all, not even a blip weird character either..

The amp was booting up for about 5 secs, I hit the power off by mistake and it never came on again.
So if it had other hard faults this put it over the edge. Brad said the amp should not have powered down when it was booting
when I hit the power off switch..but it did.

I hope its something simple, a re-flash.

Thanks for your input Dick.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: dickgreen03755
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 11:43 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

John,

That's a reasonable price, but if you haven't pulled the board and sent it in yet, I suggest you look very carefully for any loose connections in the vicinity of the CPU board. Although Brad has uncanny ability to nail the cause of 87A problems (shortly I'll post a story about how he recently did that for my 87A), it seems odd to me that the previous owner had the amp up and running, then the CPU failed when you got the amp. Spontaneous complete failure of a microprocessor is pretty rare. I understand that it's possible for the EEPROM to fail over time, so that's a possibility, though not one that's been reported frequently.

To me, the symptoms suggest a loose connection resulting from moving the amp. That said, I understand you tested voltages at the connectors at the top of the CPU board and they were normal. But I think there are other connections below. Not many chips are socketed on that board, but if there are any you should make sure they're fully seated. It's worth a few minutes to verify that the problem is really a bad chip.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
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> In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by

> removing the controller board myself and sending in.
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> learn from it too.
>
> This is quite the interesting repair.
>
> Stay tuned..
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>

714. Want a FREE ham website

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 12:57:40 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 666 Message: 714

Hi all,

If any of you want a free ham website to put your ham stuff on
or just ham photos.

I have a help page on my website with some get you started HTML pages
and details and links how to edit them. Also details on getting a FREE
qsl.net
web space.

Full details with download, files and links:

http://www.g0hwc.com/website.html

Get stuck ? email me direct or search me on Skype

Paul G0HWC
http://www.truckcam.tv "Live images from my truck"
http://www.g0hwc.com "Main site"

715. Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 15:24:39 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 666 Message: 715

When you say, "booting up", what do you mean?

When the amp starts, it exercises the motors and starts the 3 min. warmup period. I don't know if the power can be turned off when the motors are moving (probably not), but the power can be turned off at any time during the warmup.

I don't think it got a hard fault when you hit the power switch. This sounds more like a controller board failure, and it may be just a coincidence that it occurred after you took possession of the amp and another coincidence that it became unrecoverable when you hit the power switch. My guess is that had the boot/warmup continued the amp would have just sat there in warmup state with the fan running and a dead CPU, and wouldn't have started the next time.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> Dick -
>
> I went through every connection and reseated them as well. Reseated the chips that were socketed as well.
>
> Absolutely no comms at all, not even a blip weird character either..
>
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>
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> Thanks for your input Dick.
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> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
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> From: dickgreen03755
> Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 11:43 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power, boot up or computer interface
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>
> John,
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>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@> wrote:
> >
> > In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
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> > They will check it over and replace what is needed.
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> > I thought about sending the entire amp in but I can remove the controller
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> > This is quite the interesting repair.
> >
> > Stay tuned..
> >
> > 73-
> > W1JCW
> > John
> >
>

716. followup: more on fault 9 (now 11 and 8)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 20:16:46 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 648 Message: 716

In follow-up to my post below, here's the story on the fault 11, fault 8 and fault 9 problem my 87A was having:

Since the amp was consistently failing with fault 8 when switched from Standby to Operate, I followed the troubleshooting instructions for that fault. The -109 voltage was zero at the safety choke board, but about -95V with the coax disconnected from the board. The instructions said this indicates a bad transmit PIN diode. Before checking into that, however, I measured the -109 at the T/R input board under the amp. It measured OK -- about -109V directly from the LVPS and about -95V after the resistor.

For the rest of this discussion, see the photo album titled "87A T/R Module" in the Photo section of the Alpha87a group on Yahoo.

Next I removed the cover of the T/R module at the back of the amp. I desoldered the + leads of the two transmit PIN diodes and measured the resistance across them. In the forward direction, the top diode measured about 120 ohms. Same in the reverse direction. Clearly that diode was shorted, which was causing the fault 8 and fault 9 statuses. The bottom diode appeared to be OK in the forward direction: about .9 megohms. The instructions say it should be at least 1.5 megohms, but my meter doesn't use the same measuring voltage the one RF Concepts references. Oddly, the bottom diode measured 65 megohms in the reverse direction. I thought it should have been infinite, but wasn't sure.

I discussed the measurements with Glenn at RF Concepts, and we agreed that the top diode was definitely blown. I ordered a replacement transmit PIN diode. These suckers are rare and hard to find, and are consequently quite expensive: $125 each, plus shipping. I also ordered a spare KS1001 PIN diode to have on hand. It was only $12.

The transmit PIN diodes are at the left upper rear of the T/R compartment. In the photo, they have orange bodies. These are actually the replacement diodes (some foreshadowing here). The originals had white ceramic bodies. The diodes have an insulator and small threaded screw sticking out one end. This serves as a mount and probably as a heatsink. The screw is passed through the 87A rear panel and secured with a split ring lock washer and a small nut. A pair of needle nosed pliers can be used to remove/reinstall the nut. The leads are tack soldered to the PCB. It's a little cramped in the T/R compartment, but I was able to get my soldering and desoldering irons in there without a lot of difficulty.

I measured resistance across the replacement diode before installing and it was 1.5 megohms in the forward direction and infinite in the reverse direction (or so I thought.) As expected, after replacing the top transmit diode, the fault 8 status went away. The amp was able to complete the warm-up cycle and enter Operate mode without faulting. Better yet, it was able to transmit without faulting! But my excitement was short-lived. When the output power got up to about 1400W, the amp faulted with fault 11. That was the status that started this whole mess in the first place!

Unfortunately, the instructions for fault 11 are pretty thin. They say the fault is rare and it's not clear what causes it. They say to check the Tune and Load capacitors for shorts, and to check the T-BIAS voltage (+30V/-30V used to switch T/R.) I couldn't find

anything wrong in those areas.

I had a long discussion with Glenn about it, and reiterated that I though the resistance measurements across the bottom transmit PIN diode were a bit low in the forward direction and kind of odd in the reverse direction -- high, but not infinite like the replacement diode. That didn't get an "Aha" response. In fact, when he happened to mention my fault 11 problem to Brad, who was passing by, Brad said it was likely due to arcing by L1 (the large inductor wound with green wire in the upper right-hand corner of the T/R compartment.) He said over time the glue holding the inductor deteriorates and the windings can arc to the PCB ground plane. I was about to hang up and check that, when I mentioned to Glenn that the amp appeared to have problems switching in and out of transmit (sometimes is would lock in transmit and I'd hear no signals). This, and the somewhat low resistance measurements, caused both of us to suspect the bottom transmit PIN diode was bad, too. So I ordered another $125 replacement.

The new diode had better forward resistance, about 1.5 megohms, but when I measured the reverse resistance it was about 300 megohms. Still strange. I could have sworn the other replacement diode had infinite resistance in that direction. Maybe I messed up that measurement. Anyway, after installing the replacement, the T/R problem appeared to go away -- the amp switched cleanly into and out of transmit. But when I increased power to about 1400W, the amp still got fault 11. Rats.

At that point, I had no choice but to examine L1. Looking very closely with a magnifying glass, I saw what appeared to be a tiny blob of copper-colored metal on one of the windings that was close to a screw mount. I desoldered L1, snipped the cable tie holding it down, and pulled it off the board. It was stuck to the board with some sort of black sticky pad, so it took some force. Once I got the inductor off the board, I could see that two windings were broken, their insulation was missing for about 1/4", and they were fused together (that's where the copper blob was.) Not only that, I could see evidence of arcing and damage to the PCB under where the windings had been, and could see that the screw mount was covered with black char.

The photo of the mount area appears to show that the insulating layer under the center of L1 was very thin. But that's misleading. Part of the black stuff from that area was stuck to L1's core and came away with it when I pulled L1 off the board. However, I do think the black pad was compressed quite a bit by the cable tie, and the black stuff probably deteriorated over the years. Also, the windings that were arcing were laying almost on the bottom of the core, very close to the exposed pad on the PCB (immediately adjacent to the pitted area.) As the close-up shows, the windings arced to that pad, removed some of the PCB coating, and ate into the ground plane. It also appears that the spark jumped to the mount screw immediately to the left of the damaged area. It was very hard to see that this mount was charred when I examined the amp earlier. It's dark in there and the view is obscured by other parts.

Luckily, I had some #26 magnet wire on hand, and was able to rewind L1. I was careful to leave about 1/4" clear of windings on the bottom so no windings would lay against the board. I scraped all the black stuff off the PCB, cleaned up the charred areas as best I could, and put down a pad of Dynamat. This is a rubber sound insulation material that's about 1/16" thick and sticky on one side. Initially I tried to thread another cable tie through the board to hold L1, but gave up on that idea. The ties I had on hand weren't long enough, and I was worried that pressure from the tie might press L1 too close to the board. Instead, I laid a bead of RTV down the center of the Dynamat, and another down the bottom

side of L1. I figured that would not only hold L1 to the board, but would also provide additional insulation for the windings. Now the windings were up off the board, coated with RTV, and the PCB was protected by a layer of Dynamat.

I fired up the amp and, voila -- it transmitted to max (and I mean max) power with no faults! Once again, however, my excitement was short-lived. It didn't take long to discover that when I switched the amp from Standby to Operate, received signals were attenuated to just about zero. At first I suspected the relay in the T/R compartment had charred relay contacts from the arc, but the schematic indicated that the relay wasn't involved in the receive chain. I figured some other component in the T/R module must have gotten damaged during one of the arcs from L1. It turns out that great good luck was shining down on me: fuse F1 was blown. F1 is the 1/4A very fast-blo fuse on the right side of the T/R module. It's a plug-in, and therefore easy to check and replace. I cobbled together a replacement with a standard 1/4A fast-blo fuse and standard fuse holder with wire leads, and tested the amp. Sure enough, the Standby-Operate problem was solved! I immediately ordered a couple of replacement plug-in fuses from Mouser.

When the fuses finally arrived, I ran though a final set of tests. Everything was OK, but I noticed that the amp didn't always flip into transmit reliably. Sometimes I had to unplug and replug the AMP KEY line on the K3. Sometimes received signals were attenuated after transmitting. I was just about to start crying when I realized that the K3 AMP KEY is also connected to the PTT sense line on my microHam micro Stack MAX controller. That's to ensure that the stack isn't switched while the K3 is transmitting. Well, it turns out the Stack MAX was off. When I turned it on, the K3/87A keying worked perfectly. Evidently, when the stackMAX is off it loads the AMP key circuit in some way that confuses the 87A. I guess I had never noticed this before because I always turn on the Stack MAX before transmitting. I have to, because it's one of the items wired in to the K3 TX INH circuit to make sure the K3 won't transmit when the stack is being switched. I had overridden that feature in firmware while testing the 87A problem, so I handn't noticed the StackMAX was off.

So, my analysis of what happened is this: Over time, the insulating properties of the pad under L1 deteriorated, allowing the windings to arc to the PCB. When that happened the first couple of times at the start of the IARU contest, the amp got a fault 11 (excessive current through the transmit PIN diodes.) Then the excessive current drawn by the arc damaged (shorted) the top transmit PIN diode, resulting in continuous fault 8 or 9 statuses. The arc may also have slightly damaged the bottom transmit PIN diode, but I'm not sure about that. I'm convinced that the T/R switching problems I mentioned to Glenn were a red herring, caused by paralleling the K3 AMP KEY with the microStack MAX and not turning the latter on. I really should have listened to Brad's advice, which was spot-on: L1 was arcing. Brad has been repairing these amps for so long that he's able to nail a relatively obscure cause like that without even looking at the amp. That said, it's conceivable the bottom PIN diode was also compromised by the arcs and was leaking slightly. When I replaced the top diode, the real problem, arcing from L1, was exposed. Unbeknownst to me, during testing F1 was blown by one of the arcs from L1. Bottom line, replacing the top transmit PIN diode, rewinding and remounting L1, and replacing F1 solved the problem. Oh, and making sure to turn on the microStack MAX before transmitting :-)

This was a real learning experience. It's probable that I spent $125 more than I had to, but it's nice to know that both PIN diodes are brand new, instead of one being new and one being 15 years old. They probably don't last forever. Besides, I'm keeping the bottom PIN diode -- it may well be a good replacement if I ever have another transmit PIN diode failure.

The consolation is that if I'd had to ship the whole amp it would have cost a *lot* more than $250 for the shipping, diagnostics and repair time.

Hope this little story was useful or at least amusing.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Now that the contest is over, I recabled the amps and fired up the 87A to see what it would do. It came up in Operate mode normally, and I then switched to Standby to make sure the rig and dummy load were connected and transmitting OK at low power. Then I switched back into Operate. At that point I hit the key and got fault 11, "Transmit PIN diode forward current exceeds maximum limit key down." (That's from the manual. Alpha Remote calls it "PIN back bias too low." Now when I try to switch from Standby to Operate to clear the Fault, the amp gets fault 8, "Transmit diode back bias below minimum required value key up". (Again Alpha Remote doesn't know what fault 8 is.)
>
> Kinds sounds like a shorted PIN diode.
>
> Can someone from Alpha chime in here?
>

717. Re: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 20:54:55 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 666 Message: 717

John

Send me a copy of ther pictures also.

Jim
K5WLQ

From: Larry stowell <lclarks@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thu, September 9, 2010 12:00:42 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

John
I would like to see the pictures also

lclark@...

73 Larry K1ZW

From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of
Thomas Smith
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 12:47 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Controller Removed No boot up or computer interface

I'd LOVE to see the pictures ...

73,
On Thu, Sep 9, 2010 at 10:24 AM, W1JCW <w1jcw@...> wrote:
Guys -

The control board is out, that only took about 10 mins after taking many
pics.
Seven screws and many interface cables but pretty simple over all.

Hopefully alpha can flash the eprom and that will fix it, the processor and
eprom are not "that" expensive per Molly.

Cross your fingers for me, other wise its going back to the original owner
as he only want to spend about $200 fixing it.

If anyone wants to see some pics let me know.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...>
Sent: Wednesday, September 08, 2010 3:36 PM
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] No power, boot up or computer interface

> In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
> removing the controller board myself and sending in.
>
> They will check it over and replace what is needed.
>
> I thought about sending the entire amp in but I can remove the controller
> myself and I will save a lot in shipping as well.
>
> Right now the price is sitting at $135 for one hour lab and work.
>
> A new controller board would cost around $700 Molly said so repairing this
> one seems like the way to go.
>
> I will take pics when removing it for my assembly benefit and others can
> learn from it too.
>
> This is quite the interesting repair.
>
> Stay tuned..
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
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>
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Member Armadillo Intertie armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA jpara.net
Member of the Board, Sun City Amateur Radio Club k5wph.org

Trustee & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC w5rrr.org

718. No power, boot up or computer interface

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 22:44:18 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 718

When the amp first powered up..I call that booting as the computer was starting it's warm up cycle.

Brad at Alpha also stated the amp should not have shut down with the power switch.

Hopefully it's a bad alphamax chip or processor that is reasonable priced as Molly said the entire board
is way over priced. I know the previous owner will not pay that price to fix it. I will then return the amp to
the guy I bought it from.

Hopefully it will be one of those chips that can be replaced easily and inexpensively.
Cross your fingers for me.

The control board was shipped yesterday and will be there Monday.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: dickgreen03755
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 10:24 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power, boot up or computer interface

When you say, "booting up", what do you mean?

When the amp starts, it exercises the motors and starts the 3 min. warmup period. I don't know if the power can be turned off when the motors are moving (probably not), but the power can be turned off at any time during the warmup.

I don't think it got a hard fault when you hit the power switch. This sounds more like a controller board failure, and it may be just a coincidence that it occurred after you took possession of the amp and another coincidence that it became unrecoverable when you hit the power switch. My guess is that had the boot/warmup continued the amp would have just sat there in warmup state with the fan running and a dead CPU, and wouldn't have started the next time.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> Dick -
>
> I went through every connection and reseated them as well. Reseated the chips that were socketed as well.
>
> Absolutely no comms at all, not even a blip weird character either..

>
> The amp was booting up for about 5 secs, I hit the power off by mistake and it never came on again.
> So if it had other hard faults this put it over the edge. Brad said the amp should not have powered down when it was booting
> when I hit the power off switch..but it did.
>
> I hope its something simple, a re-flash.
>
> Thanks for your input Dick.
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>
>
>
>
> From: dickgreen03755
> Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2010 11:43 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No power, boot up or computer interface
>
>
>
> John,
>
> That's a reasonable price, but if you haven't pulled the board and sent it in yet, I suggest you look very carefully for any loose connections in the vicinity of the CPU board. Although Brad has uncanny ability to nail the cause of 87A problems (shortly I'll post a story about how he recently did that for my 87A), it seems odd to me that the previous owner had the amp up and running, then the CPU failed when you got the amp. Spontaneous complete failure of a microprocessor is pretty rare. I understand that it's possible for the EEPROM to fail over time, so that's a possibility, though not one that's been reported frequently.
>
> To me, the symptoms suggest a loose connection resulting from moving the amp. That said, I understand you tested voltages at the connectors at the top of the CPU board and they were normal. But I think there are other connections below. Not many chips are socketed on that board, but if there are any you should make sure they're fully seated. It's worth a few minutes to verify that the problem is really a bad chip.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@> wrote:
> >
> > In speaking with Molly at alpha I am going to save a bit of money by
> > removing the controller board myself and sending in.
> >
> > They will check it over and replace what is needed.

> >
> > I thought about sending the entire amp in but I can remove the controller
> > myself and I will save a lot in shipping as well.
> >
> > Right now the price is sitting at $135 for one hour lab and work.
> >
> > A new controller board would cost around $700 Molly said so repairing this
> > one seems like the way to go.
> >
> > I will take pics when removing it for my assembly benefit and others can
> > learn from it too.
> >
> > This is quite the interesting repair.
> >
> > Stay tuned..
> >
> > 73-
> > W1JCW
> > John
> >
>

719. FREE ham website

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-10 22:45:52 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 666 Message: 719

Thanks Paul, I will certainly check it out.

I have wanted to learn some html or just some webpage design.

73-
W1JCW
John

From: "Paul Young" <paul@...>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2010 7:57 AM
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Want a FREE ham website

> Hi all,
>
> If any of you want a free ham website to put your ham stuff on
> or just ham photos.
>
> I have a help page on my website with some get you started HTML pages
> and details and links how to edit them. Also details on getting a FREE
> qsl.net
> web space.
>
> Full details with download, files and links:
>
> http://www.g0hwc.com/website.html
>
> Get stuck ? email me direct or search me on Skype
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.truckcam.tv "Live images from my truck"
> http://www.g0hwc.com "Main site"
>
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>
>

720. Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 15:46:30 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 720 Message: 720

Is there a breakdown of serial numbers for the 87a and when they were built? I have one that's eight digits long and starts with a 77 and hadn't seen that before.

Thanks...

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

721. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 16:39:47 UTC
From: Harry Herr
Topic: 720 Message: 721

Hi Rich,

Mine starts with 91 and it was built in 1991.

73 - Harry

On 09/19/10 10:46 AM, Rich Hallman - N7TR wrote:
>
> Is there a breakdown of serial numbers for the 87a and when they were
> built? I have one that's eight digits long and starts with a 77 and
> hadn't seen that before.
>
> Thanks...
>
> Rich N7TR
>
> ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
>
> www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>
>
> Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster
>
>

722. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 16:45:53 UTC
From: W4ABW@aol.com
Topic: 720 Message: 722

My Alpha 89 is 8 numbers and starts with 94. I received it in Feb, '94 and it was ordered in Fall '93.

73
Al
W4ABW

723. RE: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 21:02:15 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 720 Message: 723

Rich
I received this from Glenn a while back.

"Ahh, you hit one of the exceptions, there, Larry. After 2000 we changed from 8 to 10 digit serial
numbers. The first 2 are the model (87A), the next 4 are datecode (37th week of 2004). THe first
87a amps were shipped in 1991 so that is the earliest datecode for that model.

The last 4 digits are the sequencial number of the 87A in production of the amps. The last was
around 1500.

73 - Glenn AE0Q"

73 Larry K1ZW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rich Hallman - N7TR
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 11:47 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Is there a breakdown of serial numbers for the 87a and when they were built? I have one that's
eight digits long and starts with a 77 and hadn't seen that before.

Thanks.

Rich N7TR
ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
www.n7tr.com
Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

724. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 22:06:40 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 720 Message: 724

95 here...

73-
W1JCW
John

From: Harry Herr
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Hi Rich,

Mine starts with 91 and it was built in 1991.

73 - Harry

On 09/19/10 10:46 AM, Rich Hallman - N7TR wrote:

Is there a breakdown of serial numbers for the 87a and when they were built? I have one that's eight digits long and starts with a 77 and hadn't seen that before.

Thanks.

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

725. Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 22:12:59 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 720 Message: 725

Hello Rich,

For a few years in the late 90's, before Alpha went to the 10 digit s/n in 2000, the first digit was the model number (9=89, 7=87a).

The second digit is year of manufacture (7=1997, 8=1998, etc)), the next 2 are week of manuf in the year, then the last 4 the unique number of the amp in the series of all of that model.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

--

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

726. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 22:13:06 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 720 Message: 726

Group,

I don't know why Alpha made the deciphering the 87a build date serial numbers so difficult. The build date for most ETO/Alpha amplifiers except the 87a are listed on their web site. My 87a serial number consist of 10 numbers beginning with 8700. Last year when I inquired about my build date Molly responded that my serial number indicated mine was built in the last half of 2000.

Does anyone know how to decipher 87a build dates with the serial number?

Jim
K5WLQ

From: Rich Hallman - N7TR <rich@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, September 19, 2010 10:46:30 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Is there a breakdown of serial numbers for the 87a and when they were built? I have one that’s eight digits long and starts with a 77 and hadn’t seen that before.

Thanks…

Rich N7TR
ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
www.n7tr.com
Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

727. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 22:14:59 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 720 Message: 727

Thanks Glen!

Jim
K5WLQ

From: Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, September 19, 2010 5:12:59 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Hello Rich,

For a few years in the late 90's, before Alpha went to the 10 digit s/n in 2000, the first digit was the model number (9=89, 7=87a).

The second digit is year of manufacture (7=1997, 8=1998, etc)), the next 2 are week of manuf in the year, then the last 4 the unique number of the amp in the series of all of that model.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

--

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

728. RE: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-19 22:18:23 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 720 Message: 728

Thanks Glenn....that explains the 77 serial number.

Rich

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 3:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Hello Rich,

For a few years in the late 90's, before Alpha went to the 10 digit s/n in 2000, the first digit was the model number (9=89, 7=87a).

The second digit is year of manufacture (7=1997, 8=1998, etc)), the next 2 are week of manuf in the year, then the last 4 the unique number of the amp in the series of all of that model.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

--

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

729. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-20 14:35:29 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 720 Message: 729

In 2000 when Alpha changed to 10 digit serial numbers it became easier to understand the number.

first 2 digits = model number (87, 99, 89)
next 2 = last two digits of the year of build
third 2 = week in that year of build
last 4 = unique number of the amp in the production run of that model

The early 87a and 89 amps just used 8 digits for year, week, (4) number of amp.

Late in the 90's changed to the first digit = model, 2nd digit = year, next 2 = week, last 4 = number of amp.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

Does anyone know how to decipher 87a build dates with the serial number?
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
>
>

--
AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

730. Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-20 15:14:59 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 720 Message: 730

Glenn,

Thanks again for your making it easy or we 87a owners to determine the build date of our amplifiers using the serial number.

Jim
K5WLQ

From: Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@gmail.com>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Mon, September 20, 2010 9:35:29 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Serial numbers?

In 2000 when Alpha changed to 10 digit serial numbers it became easier to understand the number.

first 2 digits = model number (87, 99, 89)
next 2 = last two digits of the year of build
third 2 = week in that year of build
last 4 = unique number of the amp in the production run of that model

The early 87a and 89 amps just used 8 digits for year, week, (4) number of amp.

Late in the 90's changed to the first digit = model, 2nd digit = year, next 2 = week, last 4 = number of amp.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

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>
>Jim
>K5WLQ

--
AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

731. blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-25 23:46:47 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 731 Message: 731

Folks,
I wanted to see if any of you have seen this before or encountered it. I was using the amp this evening and everything was going fine until I heard the amp just shutdown. When it shutdown, I was actaully listening and not transmitting.

The front panel switches were of no action, so I connected a serial cable and no response. I checked the 2 20amp fuses in the back and they were blown. I replaced them and then the serial interface to the amp came alive. I tried starting it and it would make a grunting noise and the Hard fault 22 would show.
So, I opened the amp and found that the 1/4amp fuse had also blown and replaced it.
Now, everything was good when I connected the amp back to power and I attempted to turn it on through the serial interface. It tried to turn itself on and within a 2 secs it shut itself down.
I looked at the 2 20amp fuses in the back and they are blown again when the amp tried to startup.

There is obviously an issue beyond blown fuses here. Why would a working amp just go dead by blowing its fuses or when to trying to startup? Is it a short tube? Any input?

Regards,
Ken

732. Re: blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-26 03:40:37 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 731 Message: 732

I replaced the tubes with another pair and then I tried starting the amp again. It blew all the fuses once again. The 1 1/4A fuse inside also gets blown. I may have noticed in the 2 secs when it blew the fuses a spark fly out from the amp.
I guess its not the tubes.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ken_800" <ken_800@...> wrote:
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> There is obviously an issue beyond blown fuses here. Why would a working amp just go dead by blowing its fuses or when to trying to startup? Is it a short tube? Any input?
>
> Regards,
> Ken
>

733. Update Re: blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-02 01:37:28 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 731 Message: 733

Ok. I changed all the 7 HV caps. I got it from Alpha. The good news is that the 20 amp fuses dont blow any longer. That part is fixed. However when I try to Power On, it still blows the Step Start fuse which displays a fault 22 and then 3 secs later it makes another grunting noise and throws fault 37.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ken_800" <ken_800@...> wrote:
>
> I replaced the tubes with another pair and then I tried starting the amp again. It blew all the fuses once again. The 1 1/4A fuse inside also gets blown. I may have noticed in the 2 secs when it blew the fuses a spark fly out from the amp.
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> > Ken
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>

734. Re: blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-09-26 02:47:34 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 731 Message: 734

Ok. I replaced the tubes with another pair and it still does the same. It blows all the fuses including the stepstart fuse within a sec of pushing the start button. In any cases, I have run out of the 20A fuses and the 1 1/4 amp fuses now.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ken_800" <ken_800@...> wrote:
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> Regards,
> Ken
>

735. Re: blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-04 15:48:41 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 731 Message: 735

Forgive me for asking this question, but when you test the amp are you doing so with the cover on or, if not, are you defeating *both* interlocks? If you don't defeat the HV interlock (the leaf spring and screw in the center of the amp), it'll blow the 20A fuses. If you don't defeat the spring switch (towards the rear), it'll blow the 1 1/4A fuse. If you're testing with the cover on, inspect the interlocks to make sure both are being defeated by the cover.

If you've properly defeated the interlocks, then I would suggest you disconnect the HV supply from the RF deck to see if it's a short in the HV board or in the RF deck. From memory, all you have to do is disconnect the large red wire leading from the HV board to the interlock (do this with the AMP OFF AND UNPLUGGED, of course.) It's better to disconnect the cable at the HV board so the loose cable won't have voltage on it and possibly short to the chassis.

If, after disconnecting HV, the fuses don't blow, then it's undoubtedly a short in the RF deck. Since you've eliminated the tubes, it shouldn't be too hard to find it. If the fuses still blow, the problem is going to be harder to track down. Could be caused by a short on the HV or LV board. I'm not sure if a short in one of the LV circuits would blow all the fuses. I don't think so. I think it's more likely it would blow components on the LV board.

BE VERY CAREFUL TROUBLESHOOTING THE AMP WITH THE COVER OFF. LETHAL VOLTAGES ARE PRESENT.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ken_800" <ken_800@...> wrote:
>
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> > Ken
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>

736. Re: blown fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-05 15:02:36 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 731 Message: 736

Dick,
Here are the next steps that I followed ...

1. I have replaced the 7 capacitors on the HV board. I put in the step start fuse and the 20amp fuses. I tried powering up the amp and it blew the step start fuse this time. Unlike before the 20amp fuses are in good shape. The amp threw a fault 22 and then a fault 37 showed up when the step start fuse had popped.

2. I removed the 3 wire to the HV Board and powered on the amp. The fuse didn't blow. So, this eliminates the AC board. I plugged the HV board wires back in and it immediately blew the step start fuse. So, I guess the fault is still at the HV board. The good news is that it no longer blows the 20Amp fuses in the back. The changing of the 7 Caps seems to have fixed it.

Regards,
Ken

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Forgive me for asking this question, but when you test the amp are you doing so with the cover on or, if not, are you defeating *both* interlocks? If you don't defeat the HV interlock (the leaf spring and screw in the center of the amp), it'll blow the 20A fuses. If you don't defeat the spring switch (towards the rear), it'll blow the 1 1/4A fuse. If you're testing with the cover on, inspect the interlocks to make sure both are being defeated by the cover.
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> > >
> >
>

737. Mystery Ticking sound

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-11 01:01:01 UTC
From: ritnesb
Topic: 737 Message: 737

I hear a lite one click "Tick" sound in my 87a. This lite tick sound occurs about once every 2-3 minutes. At times I do not hear it at all.

IT appears to be coming from the frontend control/logic area.

Any idea as to what it is? Otherwise, everything else is all OK.

Rit - N4BNM

738. FW: RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-12 10:51:05 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 738 Message: 738

Having trouble viewing this email? www.rfconcepts.com
<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=eka89lcab&v=001BpBBz7jUJgDHccp1NRLlESMhgSHCSJWyt4RL1YdlzkI7rZyDqhJDkVfkjL5fn12ctcNAKW7CWNAJMHkayMnyAJAjswibykKA-F3NeDHvjZK9Tfj-xS4RUIm7kmeBZ4NUkreEhlTmqN8%3D>

[image: ask the ham who has one]
[image: Newletter Header] *ALPHA NEWSLETTER*
Our Alpha 9500 was just reviewed in the October issue of QST. They Liked it!

[image: 9500]

We're so excited about this, we decided to run it for the month of September AND October - Do you blame us? Here's the quote directly from the pages of QST magazine:

"Anyone who has seen the Alpha advertisements or who has seen the display at conventions with the brick on the key knows that Alpha amplifiers are built to deliver 1500 W of RF power at 100% duty cycle with no time limit. The Alpha 9500 lives up to the family tradition and with state-of-the-art microprocessor control the flagship 9500 can hammer away day and night without operator intervention." - QST Magazine - October 2010

Download a complete .pdf of the review HERE.<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRjfbBktblnGD6ohsqppHv3HGT6VdN2gVFSkvWyjp51CgyCSzmV2eCHRWW-Krs2lzzOWNSnNKrQL98MluUOYTTbegablrb12xvWmvTInQDDeSoXcXrz9u1U3HeSal1CFkI0bAxbGrIVAopPR3ar9KxgFNQRrnR5kdMwEPCf0H7OPZ_39qaZRMa0QbCX9KYcEtffCREeVNK_FcpIb-foucozer21ZdLaGKh0=>

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**October, 2010
You can call us at 303-473-9232 or visit our website at www.rfconcepts.com<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRhL5UiKQLWSj-eybh21cpfR2r-0V7y_kWnX5YxgGR0aUoUyKqosElsx3GEOwoXp-FBDrB7WwJYGYf3ae88xSzVGGTfa0yNKfC-EWk0RQ8ic7g==>
**Write an Article for our Newsletter and get a Gift Certificate worth $200*<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>
If you have an interesting Alpha Amplifier story, send it to us. If we publish it, we'll send you a $200 Alpha Gift Certificate.
*
<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRhL5UiKQLWSj-eybh21cpfR2r-0V7y_kWnX5YxgGR0aUoUyKqosElsx3GEOwoXp-FBDrB7WwJYGYf3ae88xSzVGGTfa0yNKfC-EWk0RQ8ic7g==>

*HELP WANTED
We're looking for an Electro Mechanical Engineer that would like to help us
with a project we're working on.
If you'd like to help, send me an email with your resume.
stevef@... DX news
DXers have a choice of where to get their DX news. Get a free two weeks of
both the Daily DX and the Weekly DX and decide which is best for your DX
information needs.
Sign up at
The Daily DX News<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DG
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*or send an email to:
bernie@...

Newsletter Signup<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>
Go to our website at
www.rfconcepts.com<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011D
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SzVGGTfa0yNKfC-EWk0RQ8ic7g==>fill
in your email address on the front page to sign up for our Newsletter.
We send a newsletter about once a month.
Free Hat!
Post a review of a current model Alpha product on eHam or your favorite
online review system and receive a FREE hat with YOUR CALL embroidered on
the back
[image: Small Alpha Cap]

We want you to tell the world about your experience with Alpha products.
It's the best advertising we can find.

If you post a review of a current model Alpha amplifier on the eHam review
system at www.eHam.net<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0
011DGbwSQPZRjp9DDdwxjVbH0OQ7A-COgaG_vsZp2MS9nsAMdW0_Pedziyhno9TKMGQd-rG4IoFwbxN0X2b0Cc4g4g
CnlRNgnI1jn9tXsXR74=>and/or
any other online review system that you feel comfortable using, and
send us a note pointing it out, WE WILL SEND YOU A FREE HAT WITH YOUR CALL
EMBROIDERED ON THE BACK.
PENTA LABS IS NOW OUR TUBE OF CHOICE FOR THE ALPHA 9500
For the last few months, Alpha Amplifiers have been using Penta Lab's 3CX
series tubes with great success.

Penta labs has been expanding its line of oxide cathode Power triodes to
include the 3CX1500A7 along with the pulse rated version.

After several years of development Penta has made a technical break through
in the development and processing configuration of the oxide cathode 3CX

series of tubes. This now yields an increase in high peak current capacity and extends the tubes' usable life expectancy. Additionally, historic problems with initial power-up arcing that have plagued the industry in the past, have been reduced.

We've qualified tubes and sockets in our equipment for the past 12 months with excellent results. When installed into our 9500 amplifier we find that the Penta 3CX1500A7 has performed up to our expectations. All performance characteristics are equal to or better when compared with the previous brand of tubes that we have used.

The inter-modulation distortion specifications, gain and overall performance have exceeded the published specifications.

Thanks to Penta Labs for providing us a great tube at a great price.
The New Alpha Tube Warranty Extension Program
available now

We've put together an extended tube warranty program for new amplifier sales. Our normal (industry leading) warranty is four years on the amplifier, and one year on the tube(s). We're now offering a 4/4 warranty to cover the amp and extend the tube warranty for the coincident amp warranty. This offer is only available to NEW orders. The prices for the extension are as follows:

Alpha 9500 Autotune
one 3CX1500A7 - $275

Alpha 8410 - Manual Tune
both 4CX1000's - $375

Alpha 8406 - 6 Meter amp
one 4CX1500 - $325
*Upcoming Hamfests we're attending
*
PACIFICON, SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, 10/15-10/16

[image: preowned]

Thinking about a new amplifier but just can't quite swing a new 9500 or 8410?

[image: Alpha 87a omega]
Here's a picture of an 87A. We get trade-ins all the time. Our techs go through them, make sure they're up to par, and we post them in the preowned section.

A PREOWNED Alpha amplifier will get you legendary ALPHA quality without the new amp price tag.

Why buy a lesser amplifier from a different manufacture when you can get a preowned ALPHA for about the same price?

Why not own the best.

There's a special section on our website listing our certified preowned equipment HERE<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRhFqXswbyMqe9st3rolSsxWPxocPG8Sg2MjUppU-Sh1ktWbRLkZkrTFJWwuJ_5aMXl1dg95Re1krjbTqMb7tvyHa6hvQDE5JzfYJHyGmIz2MknJ4T82GcpSBuf8n7pjk78kHyciBND034d2cQxVRLuE>.

Or call Molly at 303-473-9232 and ask her about the Preowned Alpha Inventory.
[image: backlog]

Pretty Good

[image: 9500 Square]

Demand for both the Alpha 8410 and Alpha 9500 amplifiers have driven us back into a slight backlog position. We've increased the build plan and will be back to "IN STOCK" soon. If you're looking for an amp for this season, get your order into the system.
[image: repair department]

Just OK - we're a little behind right now

[image: Parts Racks]
Although we've made great progress in the shop, repairs are running a bit over 3 weeks now. We've refocused our efforts and are trying to get the delay down.

Remember - we have some NOS (new, old stock) parts that are 40 years old! We still repair amplifiers that were purchased new in the 70's. If you're looking for QRO parts, call us!

We're turning amps in about a 3 weeks. The only amps in the shop that have been there longer than 3 weeks are ones we're waiting on parts from our vendors. We're still trying to get it down below a week, but if you've got an amp that needs some service, now is the time!
[image: smile]
[image: thank you]
to all of our Alpha customers and enthusiasts.

We're thrilled you're enjoying our products. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.
All the best, and 73's from the whole gang at RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers.

Steve, WA2NFR
Michael, AA6DY
Glenn, AEØQ
Brad, KØHM
Carey, KXØR
Mike, K6AER
Molly, WØMOM
Gordon, WØRUN
Mike
*Letter from the President, Steve Farkas, WA2NFR *

October 2010 -

We had a strong September as people started to prepare for winter DXing and Contesting. It's actually the very beginning of October as I write this and we've already taken more orders for our 9500 than half of last month! Most would say it has something to do with the QST review, but I think it's just getting ready for Fall and Winter operating. We were planning to move last month, but didn't get the new lease done in time. It's now signed and delivered - we're moving to Longmont, Colorado. Right next door to our contract manufacturer that helps us build some of the circuit boards we use in our products. So, this is not only the start of the busy season for us, but it's moving month.

We thought we'd get the new 6 meter amp out last month, and we were sure working hard to get the FCC type acceptance done and the final few parts in house to be able to build it, but it wasn't to happen. The Alpha 8406 WILL ship this month - probably in the next few days. It looks great. It's a single purpose amp for hams that are serious about 6 meters. It's built on the successful 8410 chassis, with the same power supply and uses a 4CX1500B tetrode and that great Alpha style tube deck and tank. Should be a real performer.

Although we've got a couple of projects in the works, we're looking for people that can help us expand our line of wonderful radio products quicker.

To do this we need electrical and mechanical engineers that have an appreciation for our ham community and a passion for excellence. If you're interested in helping us with either electronics and/or electromechanical projects - call me.

If you have a product designed or an idea for a great project that would help the ham community and would look good with an Alpha or RF Concepts name on it - call me.

One of the specific projects we want to build is a Switch Mode Power Supply that's capable of delivering the 3600VA of power we need for our amps. If you know of anyone that would be interested in designing one for us, please drop me an email or call me at the company - 303-473-9232.

We're having a great time building our company. As always, if there are any comments, please feel free to drop me a note any time or just say Hi at stevef@.... Over the last few months, I've met some of the nicest hams. It's a wonderful hobby, isn't it?

73
Steve, WA2NFR Introducing the Alpha 502525 (aka HQQ or Half, Quarter, Quarter) payment option
During the month of October, 2010, and while supplies last, any customer that qualifies to the rules set below, may choose to pay for a factory new Alpha Amplifier 9500, 8410 or 8406 by allowing RF Concepts to charge 50% of the total amplifier amount upon shipment, plus shipping charges, 25% of the amplifier amount 30 days later, and the final 25% of the amplifier price 30 days after that. There will be no special charges,

finance charges, or handling charges from RF Concepts for this service. This will have the effect of spreading the total invoice amount over a 60 day period. To qualify for this payment option:

1. You must let us keep your credit card number on file. It is stored in our computer system, but can't be seen by us after the original entry into the system. To make sure we can use this credit card for the two future payments, this credit card must have an expiration date no less than 90 days from the date we charge the original 50% of the invoice.
2. You must call the office so we can get you an agreement granting us permission to run your credit card as detailed above. You can call the office at 303-473-9232 and speak to Molly or Pam. They'll have the form available. Then you can fax the agreement to 303-473-9660 giving us permission to process your credit card payment as detailed above.
3. You must order your amplifier for immediate delivery. We will ship it as soon as we can. If we end up backlogged past October 31, 2010, the deal is still good, but you must have placed your order *by* the 31st.
4. Warranty starts on the ship date of the amplifier - just like normal, and if you'd like, you can purchase the extended warranty on the tubes as part of this payment option.

AS AN EXAMPLE:
If you purchase an Alpha 9500 for $7,950 and ordered it on 10/12, and it was shipped on 10/16, payments would be as follows:

1ST Credit Card Charge 10/16 will be for $3,975 + shipping
2ND Credit Card Charge 11/16 will be for $1,987.50
3RD (and final) Credit Card Charge 12/16 will be for $1,987.50

After receipt of order, credit card number and signed agreement, we will place the order in our order entry system and your amplifier will ship as soon as it's available.

It's that simple - You get the amplifier you've always wanted, and we help by spreading the charges over a 60 day period.

Letter from the Vice President of Sales and Support, Molly Hardman, W0MOM
[image: WØMOM]

I know I've been saying it for a while now, but this month we really will ship our backlog of Alpha 8406 6 m amplifiers!

Early this month we completed all of the FCC requirements and just received the FCC Type Acceptance document. The new amplifiers are getting ready in the production lab - after all we can test and burn-in units so that they are ready to ship as soon as we get the go-ahead. I'm excited to see this amplifier ship - I was already working with Alpha amplifiers back in 2002 when we built the Alpha 6 - a few lucky customers own those amplifiers, but we had to stop production because the tube we used was no longer easily available. We weren't the only manufacturer to be caught on the horns of that dilemma. This time we've chosen a tube that is available from multiple sources, and we've stayed with the tetrode chassis and power supply that are

the basis of our successful Alpha 8410 manually tuned amplifier. Expect to start hearing big 6 m signals with this amplifier on the air later on this month.

After one full year of operating as RF Concepts, it is a pleasure to let you know that we have had amps in stock for most of the past month - it will be great to get the 8406 backlog out the door so that those amplifiers can join the 8410 and 9500 units, just waiting to be shipped. It sure is a thrill to talk to one of you at 10 in the morning and to ship your new amplifier that same afternoon!

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the W9DCXX event in Chicago in mid-September. It had all the ingredients for a great weekend for me - plenty of attendees, all interested in DX, an Alpha 9500 amplifier running as part of the special events station and lots of people to talk to and about DX. I was honored to be asked to make a presentation on Alpha amplifiers - even though most of you know that I love talking, it was a little nerve wracking to be the first speaker on the program!

At least I didn't have to follow the likes of Bob Locher, W9KNI or Bernie McClenny, W3UR - it was fun to be on the program in such fine company. As usual we ran a drawing for a Nixie tube clock - this time the winning call sign out of the random number generator was that belonging to N9JV, Dean Levin, of Libertyville, IL. Congratulations Dean and thanks to all who entered the drawing. In a few weeks I will be headed to the San Francisco Bay area to attend Pacifion, October 15 - 17. I will be in the HRO booth and will be happy to answer questions about our products as well show you an amplifier in operation.

Within the next month we will have display 9500 units in each of our AES, HRO and Radioworld partner locations - flashing lights and all. This will give those of you who have only seen the amplifier in a QST or CQ advertisement a chance to check out the front panel of the 9500.

Between this newsletter and the next one we will most certainly have moved the few miles down the street to our new home - I have always told Michael and Steve that I don't want to move in the snow, but that I expect that is what will happen, hi, hi. I still have great memories from 10+ years ago when Alpha amplifiers made their last big move (about 15 or 20 miles that time) and I remember the snow flying quite well!

As always - please keep in touch - fill in the contact us form on our web site and I'll be happy to get back with you.

73,
Molly, WØMOM
*Letter from the Vice President of Engineering,
Gordon Hardman, W0RUN
*
[image: Small Gordon Small]*Keying Requirements for Alpha Amplifiers*

We often get asked about the keying voltage and current requirements for the current generation of Alpha amplifiers. Also, there is occasionally some confusion about the "Key In" and Key Out" RCA jacks on the rear panel. I thought I would explore this in some detail.

Really old amplifiers, of the SB200 and 30L1 vintage typically used either the grid or cathode bias supply to energize the T/R relay. This could present either a positive or a negative voltage, in the 24-48 volt range. The inductive "kick" when these relays were released could result in spikes of hundreds of volts being presented to the radio doing the keying. This may have been acceptable if the radio had a suitably beefy relay doing the keying, but it is certainly not acceptable for modern rigs. Older Alpha amplifiers had a better circuit, typically derived from a 28V supply, and conditioned to not give an inductive kick. However even this type of circuit (which typically rests at around 26 volts unkeyed) is beyond the specified limit (12V or so) for modern rigs. For all of the above cases, some sort of keying buffer is required to be in line between the rig and the amplifier to prevent degradation or failure of the radio's keying circuitry.

The current generation of Alphas uses a circuit which, as far as we know, is compatible with all modern transceivers, with *no need for any buffer*(which is just another gizmo that can fail). A portion of the 8410 schematic
has been simplified and is shown below for discussion purposes. The 9500 circuit is very similar.

The Key In and Key Out lines are connected to the RCA jacks having the same name on the rear of the amplifier. Key In is sometimes called "Send". The relay K1 is shown in its unenergized position. This is how it would be if the amplifier were turned off or unplugged. Key In and Key Out are tied together, so any changes are passed through the amplifier.

When the amplifier has warmed up and the OPER/STBY switch is placed in the OPER position, then K1 is energized. Key In is connected to R1 and Key Out to R5. Let us first consider Key In. The circuitry from R1 to the signal "KEY SENSE" is the conditioning circuitry that monitors the line from the transceiver, and supplies a logic signal to microprocessor telling it the radio is keying the amplifier. The basic supply comes from +12V, but with the other components, the open circuit voltage is around 11 volts. The current/voltage curve for this is shown below, taken from a typical 8410. It can be seen that when the input relay is fully closed, slightly over 10 mA is sourced from Key In.

D1 acts as a clamp to prevent the voltage going above 12V (in the event Key In is accidentally connected to a voltage source). R1 and C2 form a low-pass filter to prevent stray RF from accidentally triggering the microprocessor, and D2 is a final "safety" clamp to prevent damage to the micro. When Key In is pulled below about 0.75 volts, the microprocessor sees a "logical low". This is a very benign circuit as far as the driving transceiver is concerned- it looks basically resistive with no possibility of any "kick" to affect the relay or transistor driving it.

Key Out comes from the drain of Q1. When the micro sets "ASSERT KEY OUT" high, then Q1 conducts and pulls Key Out low. This can be used in a variety of ways. Most modern transceivers allow you to adjust the time from when you push the PTT button or hit the key until RF first appears at the output. Their "send" or "key" line is closed immediately, but then the rig waits a few milliseconds before allowing RF out. This allows all relays etc. in devices external to the rig to change position and be ready for RF power. This is "open loop" keying, and works very well once properly set up. Alpha amplifiers with their fast QSK work pretty much "out of the box" with all modern transceivers, which are shipped with generous delays between keying and RF out. This setup is shown below.

The above circuit shows the recommended arrangement for most shacks. In some cases, such as where the radio is unable to produce enough of a delay between asserting Send and the appearance of RF, the following setup will solve the problem. It shows a foot switch (this could be the PTT from the microphone, of course) going to Key In. Key Out goes to the radios PTT In connection. That way, when the foot switch is depressed, the amplifier will switch to transmit, and once its' relays are closed and stable, it will assert Key Out, turning on the radio. Some radios have a specific loopback connection that allows a simple connection between Key In and Key Out on the amplifier to two similarly named points on the radio. In most cases, these are set up for a proprietary amplifier by the same manufacturer, so you will have to check on the polarity and sense of these signals if using this approach. More elaborate setups than this can be derived, especially if a computer is controlling things.

So the recommended approach is to start with the first simple circuit shown above- it requires one RG58 type coax, and one shielded wire with an RCA on the amplifier end, and a plug to suit your radio on the other. *DO NOT* use any keying buffer in between them. Buffers need to be designed for the particular amp/radio combination. Even if using an "open drain" keying output, it will work fine with all current production Alpha amplifiers. Use the KISS principle, and all should be well.

Gordon, W0RUN

*Letter from the Director Of Do It All, Brad Focken, K0HM
*[image: Peter 1] I'm taking a 'pass' this month. I'll be back in the newsletter next month.

73's Brad

☐ *An article by Mike Higgins - K6AER
*

Mike may be a stranger to our Newsletter, but he's no stranger to Alpha Amplifiers. He's been doing much of the work on the new 6 Meter Amplifier - the Alpha 8406, and he was also our chief beta tester for the Alpha 8410. We got him to put down his soldering iron and pick up a pencil. This month he's writing an article about Lightning Protection.

The first installment of a three part article:

There comes a time in station assembly when simply tossing the coax out the window is no longer is a viable solution to lightning protection.

No piece of equipment, including a beefy amplifier, is immune to damage from a lightning surge.

So much information has been posted on lightning protection that you could spend hours going through it all. Unfortunately much of the general information listed in Ham Web Blogs is based on myth and conjecture, rather than on science. To find suitable protection equipment, you need to do more extensive research from the manufacturer's of lightning surge equipment.

Now if you live in the Northwest you can skip the rest of this article for your chances are very slim you would even see a thunderstorm. For the rest of the county, this is an aspect of the hobby we have to deal with. This tutorial is a reader's digest version of what must be done for surge protection and I hope it will start you thinking about your home and station and what needs to be done.

Tutorials on lightning protection can be found on the PolyPhaser site http://www.protectiongroup.com/PolyPhaser<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRjS8QL6FXluFLFa0kG8ZG4EUEDWDPQ9TJwUXnfiV4uD8fdaeMYDskdEsRHFLq4e6MAUXK0ohrbudZ87cDcw5xrk3G_5wUFV0IKiC63LJEc9M18s7cFWwrWbadzvzb-dxLk=>.
Go to Lyncole
*http://www.lyncole.com**/* , Hargar *http://www.harger.com/* and ICE (Industrial Communications Engineers) *http://www.iceradioproducts.com/* and read their tutorials on grounding.

There is no short cut to lighting protection. Your whole station and home need to be addressed as a complete solution. Remember lightning doesn't always come into your station via the antenna. Look at the possible entry points from a lightning point of view in lightning connecting to the earth. AC, phone, cable TV as well as HAM coax and control lines from the antenna to earth are in play.

Proper grounding and surge protection work and work very well. The key is setting up low resistance grounding, understanding the impedance path to earth and the proper installation of grounding material. Disconnecting you equipment and putting it into a Faraday Cage will work well but if you live in an area like my QTH you would be off the air for 3-4 months every year. Some hams, like myself, have many radios and going this route would mean my hobby is station assembly, rather than station operating, hi, hi. I can't speak for most hams but such complete disassembly and reconstruction soon loses its novelty.

The cell phone industry loses fewer then 50 sites a year to lightning. There are approximately 500,000 sites between Verizon, Nextel, AT&T, Sprint and others. Generally it is because the DSL line is struck and not the antenna/radio equipment. In the cell phone industry we ground at the top of the tower (antennas), base of the tower and where the cable goes into the facility. The facility has a ground halo inside and the all equipment is grounded to NEC code. Surge protectors are connected for all incoming and outgoing lines at the ground demarcation point. Site ground resistance is

generally below 3 ohms. Four 20 foot deep ground rods is a grounding minimum. The AC entry panel has surge protectors (95% of all lightning damage comes in through the AC panel) and most importantly *all the facility grounding is bonded together to a common demarcation grounding point.*

Power lines take by far the greatest hits but the pole flash-over-rods will pass any surges below 10,000 volts. That still leaves a lot voltage coming down the power line. The primary and secondary portion of the pole transformer can arc over and your home is next in line. Your home AC panel should have a surge protector connected to the panel. You worry about your ham equipment but what about the rest of your expensive entertainment equipment and your appliances, not to mention the possibility of fire. You can protect your home and panel for under $100 from AC surges. Intermatic makes the *Panel Gard model number* *IG1240RC surge protector* for $70 not including the two additional circuit breakers. This unit has LED's to indicate the units status and wither you have taken a power surge. Installation is just four wires into the panel.

Did I mention lightning rods for the roof? Lightning is fickle and might miss your gorgeous tower and strike through the roof to the electrical wiring in the ceiling. The ground return in your home wiring connects to the master ground in your AC panel. Remember a lighting discharge is looking for the lowest impedance path to ground, i.e. earth. If you live in high lightning prone areas like Colorado, Florida and much of the midwest, lighting rods are a good investment. National Lightning Protection * http://www.theprotectionsource.com/* in Denver makes all the necessary material to install your lightning rod system. Their web site is a wealth of information.

In my own station, all grounding points are bonded with a number "4" solid copper bonding wire. My ground resistance measured at the ground rods is less than 3 ohms. I have several deep (20 ft. by 2 inch) ground rods for the tower, AC panel and shack location. At the base of the tower is a lightning/surge protection panel for the coax, rotor cables and stepper motors on the beam. Inside the surge protection box, I use 2 inch wide copper strap for ground connections. Copper strap has much lower impedance than copper wire for much of lightning's energy is in the RF spectrum and the skin effect comes into play. Flat strap has a much larger area than round wire.

My coaxes are grounded at the top of the tower as well as the base. The AC panel has a commercial lightning protection panel to take care of incoming AC surges. The whole station is run on a pair of 5000 watt APC UPS systems to isolate the AC main from the equipment for minor surges. At the station, coaxes are terminated at a pair of grounded Alpha Delta coax switches and during storms the coax switches are in the grounded COM position. All equipment is grounded to a master ground buss bar on the back of the operating station. The master AC feed to the station has a commercial disconnect in the shack. I know many of you will think this is excessive but the proof is in the pudding. I have suffered no equipment losses due to lightning strikes and I have had quite a few.

Let's look at a typical lightning strike from two perspectives. If the strike is on the tower the voltage is to earth is like a resistance divider. Your equipment is somewhere between the cloud voltage and earth ground. Using surge protection equipment is only part of the voltage mitigation strategy. If you earth connection is poor the voltage will travel through the home wiring looking for a better ground to earth. This is why all grounds must be tied together and your ground resistance must be a low as possible. Unless you live in a salt water swamp a single 8 foot ground rod will not be enough. The lower the ground resistance via the ground system the lower the voltage the surge protectors have to dissipate at the base of the tower or cable entry point.

Remember if the cell phone, radio, public service and computer industry disconnected equipment for every summer storm, you would not have communications coverage or internet service for five months every year. The communications industry is connected 24/7. As a result, proper lightning/surge protection with good grounding works. Is it 100 % full proof...NO, but it is infinitely more effective than sticking your head in the sand with denial. You don't plan on getting into an accident but you have car insurance. Lightning surge protection is an insurance policy and another tool in your station/home safety plan.

Many hams have their station and personal electronics insured but collecting and replacing equipment is tedious and it would be easier to prevent the damage in the first place. Do the proper diligence and you'll sleep better at night.

In the second series we will discuss the AC panel surge protectors, ground rods, sphere of influence of ground systems, grounding in poor soil and grounding material.

73, Mike - K6AER
☐

Notes from Mike Adell, Director of Channel Sales.

[image: Mike Adell Headshot]Thanks to you, your friends, Radioworld, HRO and AES the summer doldrums are well behind us and demand for Alpha Amplifiers is at at a very high level.
With just two months as authorized resellers these folks have done a terrific job of extending our reach and expanding demand. And, within these next two weeks, most of their locations will have a front panel 9500 display demonstrating all of the extraordinary features of the 9500. It's playing at a store near you!

The good news about our growing demand is that we have increased production of the 8410 and 9500 and are able to ship orders within a week of receipt.

I wish I can say the same regarding Wattmeter production. Demand has exceeded our most optimistic forecast and, though we are producing more than ever, it will be about 2 weeks before a new order can be shipped. I suggest getting your orders in for the 4510 and 4520 as soon as possible.

We will be at Pacificom 10/15-17. If you are near the San Francisco Bay Area stop by and say "hi" to Molly.-and, of course, ask about our show specials. There is just a possibility you can carry home that Alpha you always wanted.

Last is just a reminder about forthcoming contests. The following are a few sites you can peruse:

CQ Magazine<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRi8YGMSvuDYEEDez7uSGSq9kGFSY_J9PTKfHTYLJj1EYJPiIzv4b1HvaWEd9_PJRNb3kLCUuAASh3TIP3nzNtjqE1sgzud4tnRZHsfteYXbaQ==>
CQWPX<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRhgWpNpUykAwAHNK2-kLkFcVKQmfyViIsOHUsbIMEU0O3INhHPfI1cMd_yu2MknO6JSxIJj9UMsrVkSUMfidojtuToEZDh_Emo=>
CQ WW<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103681897336&s=2269&e=0011DGbwSQPZRhlu79FWIfK6FJtDqqAf_lGp9yD-sG-aSAp-EN4y04LpAouZN9S4Hss78Vh6op9nIHtiKuxWnRnaBetwt_k31UCqyQkSzxRUu0=>

Check out our reseller's sites or ours for the Power to Win.
Mike
☐
Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1103681897336>
[image: Safe Unsubscribe]<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW5RtImxDxYU0TQfM6gdkZng%3D%3D&p=un>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by sales@....
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW5RtImxDxYU0TQfM6gdkZng%3D%3D&p=oo>|
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW5RtImxDxYU0TQfM6gdkZng%3D%3D&p=un>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
Email Marketing <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>by <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>
RF Concepts LLC | 6185 Arapahoe Road | Boulder | CO | 80303

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

739. Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 18:06:07 UTC
From: W1JCW
Topic: 739 Message: 739

Update -

The control board issue turned out to be a real mess that I wont deal with.

I will return the amp to the guy I bought it from.

Alpha says that all the chips on the control board need to be replaced, cost of the chips $25.
They wont send me just the chips and say it will take "extensive debug" that goes with extensive $$$$$!!!

The alpha RA process was not fun at all. I expected a detail invoice but they cannot provide a real price.
It's a guesstimate and I wont work off of that. There is no way to tell why the control board is bad and what
caused it. I wanted to know why and how and alpha would not elaborate unless I paid $$$$.

I think it's a real can of worms that I don't want to deal with. I did have high hopes the control board
could be fixed easily and at a reasonable price but no chance of that.

Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.

73-
W1JCW
John

740. Re: [Alpha87a] Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 18:28:24 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 739 Message: 740

Doesn't sound unreasonable. Alpha could have quoted you a sky high fixed price rather than an estimate, but you would lose on that if it turned out to be less. There are times that complex equipment requires an "open the box and look" approach. This is one of them.

If there is "...no way to tell why the control board is bad and what caused it", I'd want Alpha to check it out with the 87a sitting in front of them. Simply replacing the chips may not solve the problem and you'd be right back where you started with an 87a that doesn't work.

My 87a has been back to it's creator once after a lightning strike damaged it and came back good as new. I've always found the gang at Alpha to very reasonable in working with customers.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 10/28/2010 12:06 PM, W1JCW wrote:
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> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>

741. RE: [Alpha87a] Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 18:44:24 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 739 Message: 741

Ditto

The Alpha folks are honest, knowledgeable, and know customer service pretty well. On easy stuff they□ve been very helpful and sent me a diode now and then on the more complex stuff the 87A went back and was repaired as promised.

Wa3gin

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 2:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Control board issue

Doesn't sound unreasonable. Alpha could have quoted you a sky high fixed price rather than an estimate, but you would lose on that if it turned out to be less. There are times that complex equipment requires an "open the box and look" approach. This is one of them.

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WDØM

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Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.

73-

W1JCW

John

742. RE: [Alpha87a] Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 18:44:33 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 739 Message: 742

I would echo what Joe said. My 87A was repaired after a lightning strike too, and their estimate was much higher than the actual cost, which was very reasonable. I controlled my cost by having them check the tubes first, and then gave my OK for them to have at it. You could always set a limit for them to call you when the total gets to a certain point.

I was very satisfied with their repair.

Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM
Sent: October 28, 2010 13:28
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Control board issue

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WDØM

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Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.

73-

W1JCW

John

743. Re: Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 19:03:44 UTC
From: Rick S
Topic: 739 Message: 743

Same thought here.

My Alpha 87A needed repair (blown pin diodes). Drove the 40+ miles to Boulder and dropped the amp off for repair.

The Alpha team is honest and very helpful (the tour was FREE)!

I asked about the AlphaMax upgrade and that was installed too.

Best value in Ham Radio. Money well spent.

Anyone complaining about Alpha repair costs should trade down to an Amertron. Try dealing with them when you need repairs.

Another satified proud Alpha owner!

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
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>
> Jim N7US
>
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>
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> Of Joe - WDØM
> Sent: October 28, 2010 13:28
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Control board issue
>
>

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> If there is "...no way to tell why the control board is bad and what caused
> it", I'd want Alpha to check it out with the 87a sitting in front of them.
> Simply replacing the chips may not solve the problem and you'd be right back
> where you started with an 87a that doesn't work.
>
> My 87a has been back to it's creator once after a lightning strike damaged
> it and came back good as new. I've always found the gang at Alpha to very
> reasonable in working with customers.
>
> 73
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
> On 10/28/2010 12:06 PM, W1JCW wrote:
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>
>
> Update -
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>
> The control board issue turned out to be a real mess that I wont deal with.
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> I will return the amp to the guy I bought it from.
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> Alpha says that all the chips on the control board need to be replaced, cost
> of the chips $25.
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> They wont send me just the chips and say it will take "extensive debug"
> that goes with extensive $$$$$!!!
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> The alpha RA process was not fun at all. I expected a detail invoice but
> they cannot provide a real price.
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> It's a guesstimate and I wont work off of that. There is no way to tell why

> the control board is bad and what
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> caused it. I wanted to know why and how and alpha would not elaborate unless
> I paid $$$$.
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> I think it's a real can of worms that I don't want to deal with. I did have
> high hopes the control board
>
> could be fixed easily and at a reasonable price but no chance of that.
>
>
>
> Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.
>
>
>
> 73-
>
> W1JCW
>
> John
>

744. Re: Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-28 22:27:12 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 739 Message: 744

Hello John - sounds like the 87a you bought is messed up. I can't blame you for returning it given its issues and uncertainty of repair cost. However, I do concur with the replies expressed. I have always found Alpha repair folks to provide top notch support. Given the unknown condition of your amp, you can understand why they can't give you a firm, fixed cost of repair. Sorry you got a lemon. It is a great amp.

Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@...> wrote:
>
> Update -
>
> The control board issue turned out to be a real mess that I wont deal with.
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> I will return the amp to the guy I bought it from.
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> could be fixed easily and at a reasonable price but no chance of that.
>
> Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.
>
> 73-
> W1JCW
> John
>

745. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-29 11:51:23 UTC
From: wa5zup
Topic: 739 Message: 745

Not much I can add here. But thought I would comment.

I own two 87A□s. The first one was sent to Alpha for evaluation by the seller as part of the deal. The second one I bought from Alpha with a warranty. I would do it the same way again. Their customer service is a breath of fresh air compared to other companies I have dealt with. You might pay a little more but peace of mind and less stress is worth it.

73 John wa5zup

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rick S
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 1:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Control board issue

Same thought here.

My Alpha 87A needed repair (blown pin diodes). Drove the 40+ miles to Boulder and dropped the amp off for repair.

The Alpha team is honest and very helpful (the tour was FREE)!

I asked about the AlphaMax upgrade and that was installed too.

Best value in Ham Radio. Money well spent.

Anyone complaining about Alpha repair costs should trade down to an Amertron. Try dealing with them when you need repairs.

Another satified proud Alpha owner!

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I would echo what Joe said. My 87A was repaired after a lightning strike
> too, and their estimate was much higher than the actual cost, which was very
> reasonable. I controlled my cost by having them check the tubes first, and
> then gave my OK for them to have at it. You could always set a limit for
> them to call you when the total gets to a certain point.
>

>
>
> I was very satisfied with their repair.
>
>
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> Of Joe - WDØM
> Sent: October 28, 2010 13:28
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Control board issue
>
>
>
>
>
> Doesn't sound unreasonable. Alpha could have quoted you a sky high fixed
> price rather than an estimate, but you would lose on that if it turned out
> to be less. There are times that complex equipment requires an "open the
> box and look" approach. This is one of them.
>
> If there is "...no way to tell why the control board is bad and what
caused
> it", I'd want Alpha to check it out with the 87a sitting in front of them.
> Simply replacing the chips may not solve the problem and you'd be right
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> where you started with an 87a that doesn't work.
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> My 87a has been back to it's creator once after a lightning strike damaged
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> I think it's a real can of worms that I don't want to deal with. I did
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> high hopes the control board
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> could be fixed easily and at a reasonable price but no chance of that.
>
>
>
> Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.
>
>
>
> 73-
>
> W1JCW
>

> John
>

746. Re: Control board issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-30 09:37:19 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 739 Message: 746

Not all of the chips on the control board are socketed. As I recall, without looking, most of them require desoldering/resoldering, which is a tedious process. The CPU is socketed, but cannot be replaced by the user because it has to be programmed with various parameters specific to the amp, some of which take test equipment to determine.

I don't know what they quoted you, but it was probably a reasonable, worst-case estimate.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Hello John - sounds like the 87a you bought is messed up. I can't blame you for returning it given its issues and uncertainty of repair cost. However, I do concur with the replies expressed. I have always found Alpha repair folks to provide top notch support. Given the unknown condition of your amp, you can understand why they can't give you a firm, fixed cost of repair. Sorry you got a lemon. It is a great amp.
>
> Jim K7EG
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W1JCW" <w1jcw@> wrote:
> >
> > Update -
> >
> > The control board issue turned out to be a real mess that I wont deal with.
> >
> > I will return the amp to the guy I bought it from.
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> > Alpha says that all the chips on the control board need to be replaced, cost of the chips $25.
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> > Good luck with your 87A, I will stick with my converted 76.
> >

> > 73-
> > W1JCW
> > John
> >
>

747. 2x Eimac 3CPX800A7 new and unused

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-10-31 16:41:09 UTC
From: Paul-G0HWC
Topic: 747 Message: 747

Hi all,

I have a unused pair of Eimac 3CPX800A7 that I got as backups
for my Alpha 87a. Well I have just sold my 87a and looking for offers.
These are NEW and un used.

Photos HERE:
http://www.g0hwc.com/private.html

Paul G0HWC

748. RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-11 00:23:10 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 748 Message: 748

Having trouble viewing this email? www.rfconcepts.com
<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=eka89lcab&v=001T6qkBtjSWrMYa3og-COkdN9
_kEDq8GxHUzqO-yIjbFTQHpJ7OW3kPTF5ExJrIQUaY3UvNTzMk0Klt4rRAQNq0ikEW-rsktNRwDvuR5VX85aQt7xVw
uR25CIljuWyK7KjrM9ezsiUHZU%3D>

[image: ask the ham who has one]
[image: Newletter Header] *ALPHA NEWSLETTER*
Our new Alpha 8406
Full Legal Limit
No Time Limit
6 Meter Amplifier Is Shipping!

If you're looking for the most robust, six meter amplifier in the market,
check it out. We've posted some new pictures of the amps guts on the
website.

Last month we shipped the first few amps and our customers love it. We've
got another 20 going through the line right now, but it won't fill the
outstanding backlog. More to follow next month. So, if you're in the
market for a great 6 meter amp, get your order in so we can build one for
you!

*
<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiBSJgPg4Z5Y
_8yExZcpKSgAJhoHKDCo8TnA7KnDQEaLPJw8EnffbXa40g2vfj-zrVLJQmnM9Xaxjd8gbRSIwh7lb6Q1V2m7WrtHbx
s97mKC_g==>
**November, 2010
You can call us at 303-473-9232 or visit our website at
www.rfconcepts.com<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF
5ErJcMsiBSJgPg4Z5Y_8yExZcpKSgAJhoHKDCo8TnA7KnDQEaLPJw8EnffbXa40g2vfj-zrVLJQmnM9Xaxjd8gbRSI
wh7lb6Q1V2m7WrtHbxs97mKC_g==>
**Write an Article for our Newsletter and get a Gift Certificate worth
$200*<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>
If you have an interesting Alpha Amplifier story, send it to us. If we
publish it, we'll send you a $200 Alpha Gift Certificate.
*
<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiBSJgPg4Z5Y
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s97mKC_g==>
*HELP WANTED
We're looking for an Electro Mechanical Engineer that would like to help us
with a project we're working on.
If you'd like to help, send me an email with your resume.
stevef@...*Newsletter
Signup*<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1102056358212>
Go to our website at

www.rfconcepts.com<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiBSJgPg4Z5Y_8yExZcpKSgAJhoHKDCo8TnA7KnDQEaLPJw8EnffbXa40g2vfj-zrVLJQmnM9Xaxjd8gbRSIwh7lb6Q1V2m7WrtHbxs97mKC_g==>fill
in your email address on the front page to sign up for our Newsletter.
We send a newsletter about once a month.
Free Hat!
Post a review of a current model Alpha product on eHam or your favorite
online review system and receive a FREE hat with YOUR CALL embroidered on
the back
[image: Small Alpha Cap]

We want you to tell the world about your experience with Alpha products.
It's the best advertising we can find.

If you post a review of a current model Alpha amplifier on the eHam review
system at www.eHam.net<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiAWHnn-v95qYRt3KczWYolGxB30tXSuTXyXCWD0Fxy9wiKOhlQ8aaw4e9diGkhAI-ELzCoA6gPtsyVbJpZLemLV2TKWTdZOsvY=>and/or
any other online review system that you feel comfortable using, and
send us a note pointing it out, WE WILL SEND YOU A FREE HAT WITH YOUR CALL
EMBROIDERED ON THE BACK.
[image: backlog]

Just ok. We're building more amps than ever.

[image: 9500 Square]

Demand for both the Alpha 8410, 8406, and Alpha 9500 amplifiers have driven
us back into a slight backlog position. We've increased the build plan and
will be back to "IN STOCK" soon. If you're looking for an amp for this
season, get your order into the system.
The New Alpha Tube Warranty Extension Program
available now

We've put together an extended tube warranty program for new amplifier
sales. Our normal (industry leading) warranty is four years on the
amplifier, and one year on the tube(s). We're now offering a 4/4 warranty
to cover the amp and extend the tube warranty for the coincident amp
warranty. This offer is only available to NEW orders. The prices for the
extension are as follows:

Alpha 9500 Autotune
one 3CX1500A7 - $275

Alpha 8410 - Manual Tune
both 4CX1000's - $375

Alpha 8406 - 6 Meter amp
one 4CX1500 - $325
[image: repair department]

*Not well. We have about 30 days of repairs in the shop. One day last week
we received 10 legacy amps*

[image: Parts Racks]

We've got brad working along with the others repairing amps, and he'll be on it until the number is down to at least two weeks. Sorry for the delay. It's a busy season for us

Remember - we have some NOS (new, old stock) parts that are 40 years old! We still repair amplifiers that were purchased new in the 70's. If you're looking for QRO parts, call us!

We're turning amps in about a 4 weeks. The only amps in the shop that have been there longer than 4 weeks are ones we're waiting on parts from our vendors. We're still trying to get it down below a couple of weeks, but if you've got an amp that needs some service, get the amp over here so we can get it fixed.

[image: preowned]

Thinking about a new amplifier but just can't quite swing a new 9500 or 8410?

[image: Alpha 87a omega]
Here's a picture of an 87A. We get trade-ins all the time. Our techs go through them, make sure they're up to par, and we post them in the preowned section.

A PREOWNED Alpha amplifier will get you legendary ALPHA quality without the new amp price tag.

Why buy a lesser amplifier from a different manufacture when you can get a preowned ALPHA for about the same price?

Why not own the best.

There's a special section on our website listing our certified preowned equipment HERE<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiDJpI3n9clQhLYdNSSupO3oHq9H1FYkw0df2jb34xp54Gk6Ka6ipbwqwCeej9qi_ZIsQLoJ3IwCEYYE4MirjFjJcNd-vEa1nQPSH7gIFmcKKONtgmVgcBnf4cPSv6wud3Ptw4OLFOiTiZrnEGcNAuNk>.

Or call Molly at 303-473-9232 and ask her about the Preowned Alpha Inventory.
[image: smile]
[image: thank you]
to all of our Alpha customers and enthusiasts.

We're thrilled you're enjoying our products. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.
All the best, and 73's from the whole gang at RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers.

Steve, WA2NFR
Michael, AA6DY
Glenn, AEØQ
Brad, KØHM
Carey, KXØR

Mike, K6AER
Molly, WØMOM
Gordon, WØRUN
Mike
*Letter from the President, Steve Farkas, WA2NFR *

November 2010 -

During the month of October, we shipped more amplifiers than any month in the last year - and ended with a backlog. Check out the reviews on eHam if you get a chance. Customers are happy with the product and they're telling other hams about it. And, at last, we shipped the first few 8406 amps to the first people on the list. There's a production run of 20 moving through the factory right now and they will ship in the next week or so. If you're looking for one and haven't ordered, get that order in and we'll get it built.

As you know, it was moving month at Alpha. Here's one for you: we moved right next to the contract manufacturer who's building many of our boards. We've got a great relationship with them, and they have tons of surface mount equipment and skilled assemblers. We've been working together for quite a while now and they're doing great work for us. This should help us get ahead of this 'out of stock' issue we've been fighting for a year. My goal is to get these products on the shelf in sufficient quantity so that we're ALWAYS shipping from stock. Between our dealers Amateur Electronic Supply, Ham Radio Outlet, and Radioworld, plus the orders we take on our own, demand has never been higher for our amps. Although more expensive than many in the market, the real cost of owning one of these is the difference between the purchase price and the sales price (if you ever decide to part with your alpha). Check out the resale values of these amps in the market. Many of the amps sell for close to or over the original purchase price. Can't say that about too many pieces of equipment these days.

We post some of the comments we receive on our website. Check them out. It's a proud group of people that own an Alpha.

Well, time to go. We're working on some other projects to expand our line of fine products. Got to get back to the bench. Speaking of getting back to the bench, we're looking for a couple of great engineers - you don't have to live in the Denver area to apply - if you're looking for a place to work, even part time, and have your license and a lab, maybe you'd like to help?

Although we've got a couple of projects in the works, we're looking for people that can help us expand our line of wonderful radio products quicker.

To do this we need electrical and mechanical engineers that have an appreciation for our ham community and a passion for excellence. If you're interested in helping us with either electronics and/or electromechanical projects - call me.

If you have a product designed or an idea for a great project that would help the ham community and would look good with an Alpha or RF Concepts name on it - call me.

One of the specific projects we want to build is a Switch Mode Power Supply that's capable of delivering the 3600VA of power we need for our amps. If you know of anyone that would be interested in designing one for us, please drop me an email or call me at the company - 303-473-9232.

We're also looking for a machinist who has his own equipment. We've got some specific electro-mechanical work that needs to be done. If you're retired and know your way around a shop, give me a call. You could help us build one of the coolest new products around.

We're having a great time building our company. As always, if there are any comments, please feel free to drop me a note any time or just say Hi at stevef@.... Over the last few months, I've met some of the nicest hams. It's a wonderful hobby, isn't it?

73
Steve, WA2NFR Letter from the Vice President of Sales and Support, Molly Hardman, W0MOM
[image: WØMOM]

Well this month there's good news, bad news and GOOD news.

Good news: We have finally really and truly completed our move 12 miles NE of our home for the past 10+ years. I'm tired but really excited to be in new digs and with new energy as we gear up for our busiest time of the year.

Bad news: I know people in sales aren't ever supposed to report bad news, however most of you know me too well to hide this:- I lost my bet with Steve and Michael that the delay in our moving would have us moving in the snow..... I'm not yet sure what the penalty will be - I'm banking on a HUGE snowstorm between Christmas and New Year. We have been very fortunate to have enjoyed wonderful weather for the past two weeks with only 1cold and windy day. High has been in the 60's and 70's for the past few days.....

GOOD news: Actually this section should be GOOD news, GOOD news and more GOOD news.

I hope many of you had the opportunity work the new Caribbean entities - it even got me on the air and it was great to hear the 8410 signals coming out of the group at PJ7E. The amps they used are on their way back to us and if any of you might be interested in one of them, please give me a call. They will carry the full Alpha 4 year warranty and the cache of owning a DXpedition proven amplifier.

Our new space is working out really well - whilst we're not quite ready to receive visitors, this is a great move for Alpha.

Moving production as smoothly as possible and with as little downtime as possible was always our goal and the good news on this front is that our

production staff are in the midst of building the next 20 8406 amplifiers! We hardly missed a beat in this department. We have plans to build more amplifiers in November than even I thought possible, so now please call me and order them, hi, hi!

I've saved best part for last - after 6 years of working with a great group of customers and a wonderful product in a windowless cave of an office I now have a window AND a view AND I get to keep the same customers and the same wonderful products!

73,
Molly, WØMOM
*Letter from the Vice President of Engineering,
Gordon Hardman, W0RUN
*
[image: Small Gordon Small]

Calibrating Wattmeters at RFC

Gordon Hardman

Accurately measuring RF power is a tricky business, to put it mildly. Doing so accurately in a meter, such as the AP4510, that can be sold at a reasonable price and used in a typical radio shack for years is even trickier. One of the keys to the dependability of the AP4510 and others in the family is the careful calibration that each meter undergoes during production. As we were breaking down and moving the production setup for the RF Concepts wattmeters to our new location last week, I was reminded of this and thought it would be worth sharing a little of it with you.

Power, defined as the rate of doing work, is not a fundamental quantity, such as energy, that can be referred to a single fundamental standard. The best that can usually be done is to use some proxy, such as temperature, to compare one power reading against another. In many practical meters for use in radio power measurements, it is really voltage that is being measured. Since we know the impedance of the system in which the voltage measurement is being made (often 50 ohms), the power can be inferred from the voltage measurement.

At the heart of the 4510 series of meters is a rugged directional coupler constructed out of strip line in a four layer printed circuit board. This coupler is designed to maintain its high directionality (ability to discriminate between forward and reflected power) over time. The coupled arms are terminated in high stability resistors, and the voltage across these resistors is what is measured by the instrument. The RF voltage is turned into DC using wide dynamic range logarithmic detectors. In addition, a sample of the RF voltage on the "through" arm of the coupler is used to estimate the frequency of the power being applied to it. These are all digitized by the RF microprocessor (there is a second "display" micro as well). One final parameter that is sensed by the micro is the temperature of the strip line PC board in the vicinity of the coupler.

In a more simple wattmeter, there would be generally only one adjustment to calibrate the power sensor at a particular power and frequency. This would be the case, for instance, in the venerable Bird 43 wattmeter. If you want to calibrate, say, the "2-30 MHz 2.5kW" sensor, you would have to pick the power and frequency at which you want to do this. If done with care, the power at this calibration point could be "dead on". At other powers and frequencies, you would have to rely on the basic design of the instrument to yield a reading that is as accurate as the designer could make it. There is no ability to compensate for errors due to non-linearities in the detector, errors due to different coupling factors at different frequencies, and finally, no compensation for errors due to temperature changes. The 4510 compensates for all of these, not just by hardware design, but by applying mathematical adjustments to the measurements to yield readings of improved accuracy.

The 4510 series is specified over a wide frequency range (1.8-30 MHz), a large range of power (300mW to 3,000W) and over the -25 to +65C temperature range. Each meter is calibrated to determine a set of coefficients which form the basis of the mathematical corrections that are applied to the readings taken by the micro. This could be a formidable set of data if it was in the form of a table at every frequency, power, and temperature combination. Fortunately, this is not necessary. It was determined that a set of so-called fourth-order-polynomials is sufficient to turn a set of raw readings of voltage, temperature and frequency into a highly accurate measurement of forward power, reflected power and SWR. About twenty coefficients are sufficient to describe these polynomials. The coefficients are determined in two stages during manufacturing.

The first step is frequency calibration. After being assembled and undergoing a basic functional test, each RF board is connected to a computer automated test (CAT) setup. A computer controlled signal generator applies power to one port of the board, and an accurate power meter with a computer interface is connected to the other. The computer communicates with the micro on the RF board over its serial interface. The CAT computer steps through from 1800 kHz to 29700 kHz in 100 kHz steps, and records the forward and reflected power readings. These data are stored in a file.

The second step is the temperature compensation. In this test, a group of six boards is placed in a temperature chamber, and again the CAT computer controls everything. The temperature of the boards is first taken down to -25C. Once their temperature (as reported via their own individual on-board sensors) has stabilized, then the readings from all the boards are recorded in files. Two different power levels are recorded here, since one of the major effects we are measuring is the drift of the log detectors intercept point with temperature, and a minimum of two measurements is needed to determine this. The temperature is then increased in steps up to a high of +65C, and measurements are recorded along the way.

The third step is to "crunch" all this data and distill it down to the twenty coefficients needed by each board when it is part of a meter. This calibration data is stored in yet another file on one of the CAT computers. In order to keep all these files from getting mixed up, we use a unique

electronic serial number (ESN) which we get by using a specific temperature sensor which has a unique code embedded in it. All files for a particular board have this ESN as part of their filename.

The fourth and final step is to upload the coefficients into the board. Again, the CAT computer makes sure that the ESN of the target board matches the filename of the coefficient file, and passes the data over the serial port to the RF board. There it is stored in non-volatile EEPROM, and the calibration is complete.

We have been using this process for many years, and found it to be quite reliable. The equipment is being cleaned, re-calibrated and installed at our new location, and so wattmeter production will continue there to the same high standards as at the old location.

Gordon, WØRUN

☐☐ *The second installment of a three part article on Lightning Protection
by Mike Higgins - K6AER
*

Grounding and Hardware- Part Two

In the second series we will discuss the AC panel surge protectors, ground rods, sphere of influence of ground systems, grounding in poor soil and grounding material.

As mentioned in the first part of the series the AC panel in your home needs a surge protector attached to the main panel. Surge protectors on plug strips are too far from the panel to do any good. Also the AC panel needs to have its ground bonded with all other grounds so that all of the grounds are at the same potential. This is an NEC (National Electrical Code) requirement for electrical shock. First let us talk about Panel grounds in a home application. The NEC code requires a resistance to be below 37 ohms. If the ground rod resistance is above that point a second ground must be added. The problem with this is the actual ground resistance is not stated. Two ground rods may still be an inadequate ground when it comes to lightning. Again think of a voltage divider. If your ground resistance is 34 ohms and your ground potential is 3000 volts during a lightning surge that is a very high voltage on the safety ground. If you can add a much deeper ground rod you could lower the ground rod resistance to 3.4 ohm, in which case your ground potential during the same strike would be 300 volts. A much easier voltage potential to mitigate for your sensitive electronic equipment.

Surge protectors are generally flash over tubes and MOV's, Metal Oxide Varistors. These semiconductors devices start conducting at a set voltage. All surge protectors must be connected through a circuit breaker because they will develop a permanent short during a very high level strike. MOV's take a few microseconds to conduct during a strike and some energy may get by before they go into full conduction.

Ground rods have what is known as a Sphere of Influence. The cubic volume of the "sphere" is the area of a circle around the ground rod times twice the length of the ground rod. This is the volume where the ground rod will have an effect on ground conduction. An 8 foot ground rod will have a circle with radius of the length of the ground rod times twice its depth. For an 8 foot ground rod this is 16 feet diameter circle and 16 feet deep or 3215 Cubic feet of earth.

If you were to use a 20 foot ground rod the Sphere of Influence would be a 40 diameter and 40 feet deep or 50,240 cubic feet of earth. This is 15.6 times as much earth conductivity as a 8 foot ground rod. It is much easier in most cases to put in a single deep ground rod rather than 15, 8 foot ground rods.

In addition your ground Sphere of Influence for each ground rod must not overlap. If it does you are not getting the maximum earth connection due to overlapping Spheres.

Ground resistance is measured with a Megar impedance meter. This is not a DVM meter but a meter that looks at the earth impedance with an AC signal from several ground points as laid out at specific distances from the ground rod. Meters such as AEMC, Fluke, Extech and others. The meters can use a ground probes or they can be the clamp on types.

Homes must be below 37 ohms. Commercial applications such as high rise buildings must be below 10 ohms. In tower technologies we like to have the tower locations below 4 ohms in resistance. Never trust the impedance of ground rods that have been in the soil for some time. The soil can be very acidic and the ground rod might be gone just below the surface.

In the case of very poor soil condition you may have to use soil enhancers or use conductive backfill such as Bentonite or other chemical backfills. This is poured in and around the coring hole dug for the ground rod. You can read about conductive back fill HERE.<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1103840911843&s=2269&e=001DF5ErJcMsiDi-ROMDAbWZVhfjAl3zTkiRtLvqeQ1-Q-HWrDW8EnYFWaCXJP3V9os09AdOw-BcnLgMWl5HYdBDwFne6DqBUAjUsijGr_rgfExlZFoMDaXWOyJZjeaIVxfd8-doDGlv_H6fmao2dtWLyLOJPMjIUYns8LbdcgoKe-DdTKa2212rA==>

Grounding material is generally copper. Copper does not have to be the only material but for most purposes it is preferred due to its low resistance. With many millions of volts and amps during a lighting strike any resistance translates into higher voltage potential. Lightning strikes are very short in duration and tales of cars being vaporized are myth. A typical lightning strike is about 8 microseconds in 80% strength trailing off to about 20 microseconds in total duration. The cloud will act as a relaxation oscillator providing many of these short duration strikes until the cloud has discharged to below its potential and the ionized path dissipates. When cloud friction builds up another potential to earth and lightning strike will occur again.

For those of you who disconnect the coax during a storm remember that a lightning strike can travel several miles and ten feet inside your ham shack in nothing. It is much better to have your coaxes grounded than to let the

lightning travel around the home looking for a good ground path.

Most grounding cable is round solid copper. Remember that much of the lightning energy is RF in nature and long ground runs will behave as an antenna at resonant frequencies. For instance 33 feet is a quarter wave at 7 MHz and very little grounding of RF energy would take place from 3-14 MHz. For this reason your ground cable should be as short as possible.

Flat copper strap is best for grounding for the surface area has better skin effect for RF grounding. Outdoor only use solid copper grounding strap. Weather will corrode a braided strap in no time. Braided strap is OK to use indoors.

Route all coaxes and control lines from surge protectors close to the ground and place all surge protectors as close as possible to the grounding demarcation point. The further the surge protectors are from the lowest impedance of ground the higher the voltage during a lightning strike.

The best ground rods are copper plated steel rods. The can be obtained in several lengths and may be screwed together end to end for driving into the ground. Unless you are just busting for exercise, ground rods are easiest driven into the ground with a jack hammer/ground rod attachment. For deep grounds it is best to have a drilling rig drill the hole and have the back fill placed into the hole after completion. For drilled holes copper pipe can be used providing there is good mechanical connection between sections and they are electrically well connected.

73, Mike - K6AER

Notes from Mike Adell, Director of Channel Sales.

[image: Mike Adell Headshot]

Thanks to all of you and other ardent Alpha supporters, October has been one of our best months ever. We exhibited in HRO's Pacificom booth which produced much interest; we introduced our 502525 Deferred Payment plan that created interest, we shipped more Alpha Amplifiers and Accessory products than in any previous month and we started shipping our new 8406 Alpha Amplifier. All of this was done while we moved to a new location just down the road in Longmont, CO.

And there is other news. Effective 11/1 Jack Ciaccia has accepted our offer to be Director of Government Sales and Marketing and will help us drive additional opportunities in to the Federal Government. If any of you work for one of our government agencies and/or know of opportunities within please mention Alpha to the purchasing agent and give Jack a call with the details. A lead means a new Alpha logoed baseball style hat for you or a family member.

Many of you know Jack as WMØG, President of the Boulder Amateur Radio Club, a member of the Mile High DX Association and an ARRL Assistant Section Manager for the State of Colorado. You can reach Jack at wm0g@... 303- 587-0993. Keep those Government leads coming!

Our business with HRO, AES and Radioworld continues to flourish. Stop by one of their locations if you are in the neighborhood. In fact, I was just notified that HRO's Atlanta location has been completely remodeled and there is a Grand Opening scheduled for 12/4.

All of our resellers now have a 9500 Front Panel Display which is a most impressive way to see some of the 9500 functionality.

Last - I have a thought. Many of you belong to your local Ham Radio Club. Are there things other manufacturers do to support your membership? I wonder if we should be considering similar or unique activities as well. Any suggestions send them to me at mikea@rfconcepts.com. You, too, may receive one of our prized Alpha logoed hats. If you want to have your call letters embroidered on the back send me that information along with your address and, of course, your suggestion(s).

Thanks and have fun out there.

Mike

☐
Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1103840911843>
[image: Safe Unsubscribe]<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW0xeMYWMRwdADYwE_T6AEsw%3D%3D&p=un>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by sales@....
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW0xeMYWMRwdADYwE_T6AEsw%3D%3D&p=oo>|
Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&v=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWleFHSXH3xEsW0xeMYWMRwdADYwE_T6AEsw%3D%3D&p=un>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
Email Marketing <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>by <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_News_207>
RF Concepts LLC | 6185 Arapahoe Road | Boulder | CO | 80303

--
Tadej Arcon

749. Re: 2x Eimac 3CPX800A7 new and unused

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-12 03:49:57 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 747 Message: 749

Paul,

Could you share your experiences wqith the 3CPX800A7 instead of the
3CX800A7 in the Alpha 87A?

thanks
Jerry

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul-G0HWC" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> I have a unused pair of Eimac 3CPX800A7 that I got as backups
> for my Alpha 87a. Well I have just sold my 87a and looking for offers.
> These are NEW and un used.
>
> Photos HERE:
> http://www.g0hwc.com/private.html
>
> Paul G0HWC
>

750. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 2x Eimac 3CPX800A7 new and unused

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-12 04:10:13 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 747 Message: 750

Hi Jerry and the group,

My 87a still had standard tubes fitted when I sold it
so never got round to fitting the PX ones !
I'm sure there must be others in the group running
a 87a on PC tubes ?

Please stand up now the PX users.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.truckcam.tv
Live video from my truck

From: jsternmd
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2010 3:49 AM
To: Alpha87a@...m
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 2x Eimac 3CPX800A7 new and unused

Paul,

Could you share your experiences wqith the 3CPX800A7 instead of the
3CX800A7 in the Alpha 87A?

thanks
Jerry

--- In mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com, "Paul-G0HWC" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> I have a unused pair of Eimac 3CPX800A7 that I got as backups
> for my Alpha 87a. Well I have just sold my 87a and looking for offers.
> These are NEW and un used.
>
> Photos HERE:
> http://www.g0hwc.com/private.html
>
> Paul G0HWC
>

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1153 / Virus Database: 424/3250 - Release Date: 11/11/10

751. Erratic AlphaMax or 3CX800's getting weaker?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-15 21:56:09 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 751 Message: 751

My 87A has been working otherwise quite nicely without any faults. I noticed recently that I need to drive it with about 70w with my IC-7800 instead of 50w to get 1500w. I placed a recently calibrated Bird 43 between my ICOM and the 87A and another BIrd 43 between the 87A and a solid 50ohm dummyload. On many bands (10m, 12m, 15m and 20m) I dont see any AlphaMax adjustments being made and 50w drive gives about 900-1100 W output. Occasionally during my testing when I have moved around to a different band segment, Alphamax adjustments are heard and output can go up to 1200 and on occasion I have seen 1500 on 20m .. again all into the dummyload.

On 40m and 80m, Alphamax seems to work consistently and with 50w input I get a full 1500w out into the dummy load.

Is this a problem with the AlphaMax auto-tuning circuit or are my 3CX800A7's getting weaker? In almost all cases (except for 10m) I can get full output if I increase the drive to 70W even with the Alphamax turned off. I guess I have been spoiled for the past several years as I never had to do any manual adjustments, tweaking, etc. If not harmful to the Alpha 87A I certainly can drive the amp with 70-75w when I need QRO. I rarely use full power except for occasional DX station so I have not noticed this behaviour until recently.

tnx and 73
Jerry
K1JOS

752. Re: Erratic AlphaMax or 3CX800's getting weaker?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 16:26:12 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 751 Message: 752

First thing to check is the Hi-Lo switch. Make sure it's in the Hi position, and never operate the amp in the Lo position. It's a common mistake that results in unexpectedly low power output.

Next thing to check is AlphaMax. I believe the Enter or Default key (can't remember which one) flashes when it's enabled.

Finally, check the SWR between the amp and antennas. A change in SWR could easily change the tuning parameters.

Hope this helps.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A has been working otherwise quite nicely without any faults. I noticed recently that I need to drive it with about 70w with my IC-7800 instead of 50w to get 1500w. I placed a recently calibrated Bird 43 between my ICOM and the 87A and another BIrd 43 between the 87A and a solid 50ohm dummyload. On many bands (10m, 12m, 15m and 20m) I dont see any AlphaMax adjustments being made and 50w drive gives about 900-1100 W output. Occasionally during my testing when I have moved around to a different band segment, Alphamax adjustments are heard and output can go up to 1200 and on occasion I have seen 1500 on 20m .. again all into the dummyload.
>
> On 40m and 80m, Alphamax seems to work consistently and with 50w input I get a full 1500w out into the dummy load.
>
> Is this a problem with the AlphaMax auto-tuning circuit or are my 3CX800A7's getting weaker? In almost all cases (except for 10m) I can get full output if I increase the drive to 70W even with the Alphamax turned off. I guess I have been spoiled for the past several years as I never had to do any manual adjustments, tweaking, etc. If not harmful to the Alpha 87A I certainly can drive the amp with 70-75w when I need QRO. I rarely use full power except for occasional DX station so I have not noticed this behaviour until recently.
>
> tnx and 73
> Jerry
> K1JOS
>

753. 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:13:07 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 753 Message: 753

Last evening my 87A faulted off while idling. I reset using the Standby/Operate switch and everything seemed normal.

However, I was unable to operate the relay to key the amp in the Operate position.

HV appears normal and the three minute timer still works. I am just unable to key the amp with the PTT from my ICOM.

This is the first problem I have ever had with this amp and I would sincerely appreciate any thoughts or suggestions and help troubleshooting.

Thank you.

Tom Neill
K4XG

754. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:20:03 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 753 Message: 754

Hi Tom,

what was the fault code ?

Paul G0HWC
http://www.truckcam.tv
Streaming video from my truck

From: tneill1648@...
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 6:13 PM
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Last evening my 87A faulted off while idling. I reset using the Standby/Operate switch and everything seemed normal.

However, I was unable to operate the relay to key the amp in the Operate position.

HV appears normal and the three minute timer still works. I am just unable to key the amp with the PTT from my ICOM.

This is the first problem I have ever had with this amp and I would sincerely appreciate any thoughts or suggestions and help troubleshooting.

Thank you.

Tom Neill
K4XG

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1153 / Virus Database: 424/3260 - Release Date: 11/16/10

755. Alpha 87A Blower Bearing Lubrication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:21:21 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 755 Message: 755

Anyone know if the 87A blower motor bearings require periodic lubrication -- or is it a permanently sealed type? If lubrication is required, what the procedure to access the bearings. Tnx!

Paul, W9AC

756. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Bearing Lubrication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:30:36 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 755 Message: 756

I believe they are sealed. If blower is making mechanical noise, bearings could be going bad. Procedure to replace blower is on reflector files I believe.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 10:21 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Blower Bearing Lubrication

Anyone know if the 87A blower motor bearings require periodic lubrication -- or is it a permanently sealed type? If lubrication is required, what the procedure to access the bearings. Tnx!

Paul, W9AC

757. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:30:50 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 753 Message: 757

Paul

I reached over and reset without looking at the fault code. Idiot me!

Tom

758. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:38:24 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 753 Message: 758

You can read recent faults with a terminal program
connected to the amp

If you don’t have a lead it is well worth making one up,
details in your manual.

Paul

From: tneill1648@...
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 6:30 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Paul

I reached over and reset without looking at the fault code. Idiot me!

Tom

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1153 / Virus Database: 424/3260 - Release Date: 11/16/10

759. Re: Erratic AlphaMax or 3CX800's getting weaker?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 18:54:50 UTC
From: jcon7sej
Topic: 751 Message: 759

You likely have no problem with your 87A or its tubes. Drive requirements will vary with band, and the things to watch for as a precursor to tube end-of-life is that drive requirements or output will vary with time and heating. When you say that you used to only require 50W drive, what band and antenna were you on? The antenna shouldn't make much difference, but the band will. It is a good idea to pick a bseline band, tune it up, record the drive level required for 1500W output, and then when you think things are changing, go back to that band and see if things have actually changed. These tubes last an amazing length of time. Mine are now 19 years old and show no obvioius signs of imminent failure.

I will admit that I don't use my amplifier very much these days, and only use it if I can't get through without it and the contact is worth the trouble to fire up the amp. I think that is the way people should use amps so that you don't have a bunch of guys bombarding the bands with nedlessly loud signals. Some guys use their amps for every contact they make and I don't agree with that.

John Owens - N7TK

Celebrating over 50 Years in Ham Radio
No. 1 Honor Roll

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> My 87A has been working otherwise quite nicely without any faults. I noticed recently that I need to drive it with about 70w with my IC-7800 instead of 50w to get 1500w. I placed a recently calibrated Bird 43 between my ICOM and the 87A and another BIrd 43 between the 87A and a solid 50ohm dummyload. On many bands (10m, 12m, 15m and 20m) I dont see any AlphaMax adjustments being made and 50w drive gives about 900-1100 W output. Occasionally during my testing when I have moved around to a different band segment, Alphamax adjustments are heard and output can go up to 1200 and on occasion I have seen 1500 on 20m .. again all into the dummyload.
>
> On 40m and 80m, Alphamax seems to work consistently and with 50w input I get a full 1500w out into the dummy load.
>
> Is this a problem with the AlphaMax auto-tuning circuit or are my 3CX800A7's getting weaker? In almost all cases (except for 10m) I can get full output if I increase the drive to 70W even with the Alphamax turned off. I guess I have been spoiled for the past several years as I never had to do any manual adjustments, tweaking, etc. If not harmful to the Alpha 87A I certainly can drive the amp with 70-75w when I need QRO. I rarely use full power except for occasional DX station so I have not noticed this behaviour until recently.
>
> tnx and 73
> Jerry
> K1JOS
>

760. 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 19:23:17 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 753 Message: 760

What fault code is displayed - if any?

761. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 20:06:52 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 753 Message: 761

On 11/16/2010 1:13 PM, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Last evening my 87A faulted off while idling. I reset using the
> Standby/Operate switch and everything seemed normal.
> However, I was unable to operate the relay to key the amp in the
> Operate position.
> HV appears normal and the three minute timer still works. I am just
> unable to key the amp with the PTT from my ICOM.
> This is the first problem I have ever had with this amp and I would
> sincerely appreciate any thoughts or suggestions and help
> troubleshooting.
> Thank you.
> Tom Neill
> K4XG
>
>
>
I had a long running fail to key problem that turned out to be corrosion
in the keying jack. Jack was tin plated and a shot of contact spray
solved it...for the last year anyway.

73, Al K3TKJ

762. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 21:42:27 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 753 Message: 762

Paul

I have a terminal lead and will use it. Thank you.

Tom

763. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-16 21:43:38 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 753 Message: 763

I am going to have to attach the terminal control cable to determine which fault code.

Thanks.

Tom

764. terminal program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-19 18:59:22 UTC
From: wa2sry
Topic: 764 Message: 764

I tried a search no luck and looked through the files. I saw a pdf file by HB9ZS for a terminal program but no where to down load it. I have windows xp home edition on my computer in the shack and as you know no HyperTerminal.

What is a good terminal program(read free) for xp home?

73 Larry K1ZW

765. Re: [Alpha87a] terminal program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-19 19:03:57 UTC
From: Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)
Topic: 764 Message: 765

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/index.html

You can also use the standard windows terminal program as well.

73 Lee
WW2DX
On Nov 19, 2010, at 1:59 PM, wa2sry wrote:

> I tried a search no luck and looked through the files. I saw a pdf file by HB9ZS for a terminal program but no where to down load it. I have windows xp home edition on my computer in the shack and as you know no HyperTerminal.
>
> What is a good terminal program(read free) for xp home?
>
> 73 Larry K1ZW
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

766. RE: [Alpha87a] terminal program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-19 19:16:58 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 764 Message: 766

Thanks Lee

Windows xp home edition doesn't com with terminal program, windows xp pro does.

I saw that program from HB9ZS and downloaded it but didn't understand if it was a stand alone or had
to be used with a logger. I'll give it a try

73 Larry K1ZW

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2010 2:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] terminal program

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/index.html

You can also use the standard windows terminal program as well.

73 Lee
WW2DX
On Nov 19, 2010, at 1:59 PM, wa2sry wrote:

> I tried a search no luck and looked through the files. I saw a pdf file by HB9ZS for a terminal
program but no where to down load it. I have windows xp home edition on my computer in the shack and
as you know no HyperTerminal.
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> What is a good terminal program(read free) for xp home?
>
> 73 Larry K1ZW
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

767. Re: [Alpha87a] terminal program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-19 19:19:17 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 764 Message: 767

Larry,
When I built my shack computer on '07 and loaded a new OEM XP Pro into it, I later discovered that it doesn't automatically load everything into the hard drive... certain files are left out by design. Hyperterminal was one of the things not loaded. So I put the original disk back in, and looked at contents, and sure enough, HT was there, and so I Ioaded it.

It could be that your XP Home edition has it also, on the original disk. Take a look.

GL,

Glenn K6NA

At 10:59 AM 11/19/2010, you wrote:
>
>
>I tried a search no luck and looked through the files. I saw a pdf
>file by HB9ZS for a terminal program but no where to down load it. I
>have windows xp home edition on my computer in the shack and as you
>know no HyperTerminal.
>
>What is a good terminal program(read free) for xp home?
>
>73 Larry K1ZW

768. RE: [Alpha87a] terminal program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-19 19:25:14 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 764 Message: 768

Thanks Glenn

The home edition just doesn't have it.

73 Larry K1ZW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn Rattmann
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] terminal program

Larry,
When I built my shack computer on '07 and loaded a new OEM XP Pro into it, I later discovered that
it doesn't automatically load everything into the hard drive... certain files are left out by
design. Hyperterminal was one of the things not loaded. So I put the original disk back in, and
looked at contents, and sure enough, HT was there, and so I Ioaded it.

It could be that your XP Home edition has it also, on the original disk. Take a look.

GL,

Glenn K6NA

At 10:59 AM 11/19/2010, you wrote:

I tried a search no luck and looked through the files. I saw a pdf file by HB9ZS for a terminal
program but no where to down load it. I have windows xp home edition on my computer in the shack and
as you know no HyperTerminal.

What is a good terminal program(read free) for xp home?

73 Larry K1ZW

769. Advice on New EIMAC 3X800A7 's (Just in Case)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-23 22:31:28 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 769 Message: 769

I will acquire a new matched pair of EIMAC 3CX800A7 for just in case needs.

The specs on the two tubes are:

#1 - 2460 VDC Vb, 580 ma. Ib, 18ma Ig, 24w Pin, 886w Pout
#2 - 2470 VDC Vb, 560 ma. Ib, 9ma Ig, 24w Pin, 879w Pout

Any problem with the Ig differences of 9ma on one versus 18ma on the other tube?

Any advice on replacing the tubes on the 87A would be appreciated.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

770. Amplifier Uncommanded Shutdown

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-11-26 23:39:45 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 770 Message: 770

I am experiencing an uncommanded 87A shutdown by my computer when launching some apps. This is a new issue. It is intermittent. As far as I know, I have no application attempting to communicate actively with the amp. One example would be launching CWSkimmer sometimes is shutting amp down requiring a restart.

Has anyone else experienced a spurious command on the rs232 line causing amp shutdown?

Jim
K7EG

771. Cover and Panel for 87a?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-12-11 03:56:44 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 771 Message: 771

Before I order a new set from RFConcepts.....Anyone have a decent front panel and cover for an 87a?

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

772. 87a tries to turn on at plug-in?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-12-21 01:52:48 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 772 Message: 772

I have an 87a I just picked up and was a great deal...but there was no history with it. (Estate)

I just got the amp and when I plug it in...it tries to turn on....Lights flash....Relays click. Pressing and holding the power off button stops the mess. I checked all the fuses (and the little 5v deal) and they are all ok.

Is there a master reset I can do on the rs232 jack.....or am I looking at a trip to Alpha?

Thanks...

Rich N7TR

ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV

www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

773. Re: 87a tries to turn on at plug-in?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2010-12-27 19:25:50 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 772 Message: 773

If it has had 6 consecutive hard faults you will need to call Alpha to go thru the reset... maybe its posted on this forum somewhere. I would check the history of faults. If you can turn off the amp with the OFF switch then I would try to connect via the RS-232 port using Alpha 87A Communication software (Google HB9ZS). When the 87A is plugged in and powered off, the processor still can be accessed and you can see what the history of recent soft and hard faults. Pick a COM port on your PC and use the default 87A settings of 4800,8,N,1.

Also I assume you reaed the manual and set the taps on the transformer to match your line voltage correctly? 200, 220 or 240. if set for 240 and you only got 200... well you get the picture.

Others more knowledgeable than me will certainly chim in as well

Good luck.. I love my 87A

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Rich Hallman - N7TR" <rich@...> wrote:
>
> I have an 87a I just picked up and was a great deal...but there was no
> history with it. (Estate)
>
>
>
> I just got the amp and when I plug it in...it tries to turn on....Lights
> flash....Relays click. Pressing and holding the power off button stops
> the mess. I checked all the fuses (and the little 5v deal) and they are
> all ok.
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>
> Is there a master reset I can do on the rs232 jack.....or am I looking
> at a trip to Alpha?
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>
>
> Thanks...
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> Rich N7TR
>
> ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
>
> www.n7tr.com <http://www.n7tr.com>

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>
> Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster
>
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774. New To Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 00:31:23 UTC
From: Chuck Brinegar
Topic: 774 Message: 774

Good Evening....

The name here is Chuck (brand new to the group) and I wanted to let you know for the last 60 days I have been trying to find out more information about the general "Pros and Cons" of Alpha AMPs ; which has now lead me to the Alpha 87a.

Just as a general comment...Over the years all of my good memories in Ham Radio using AMPs were with my friends Alpha's (I'm positve one was an 87a).

I am now of the belief that a Certified Preowned Alpha would be the way to go...Perhaps local 87a if all the mods were installed and the original owner was selling.

I wrote to Molly at Alpha to get more info on what problems she has seen over the years and what mods are performed to the 87a's they sell as Certified Preowned.

If Y'all have any input to the "general problems" you have seen over the years, I'd appreciate it very much; any additional comments would be valued as well.

Thank you for all of your help these last weeks.

Happy New Year to You All

Chuck
WA4PEQ

775. Re: [Alpha87a] New To Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 00:58:30 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 774 Message: 775

Hi Chuck

I support your theory to buy a Certified pre-owned 87A. Molly and the folks at Alpha will take care of you.

I have been using two Alpha 87A's for years and dearly love them.

Tom

K4XG

In a message dated 1/3/2011 6:31:33 P.M. Central Standard Time, chuck_brinegar@... writes:

Good Evening....

The name here is Chuck (brand new to the group) and I wanted to let you know for the last 60 days I have been trying to find out more information about the general "Pros and Cons" of Alpha AMPs ; which has now lead me to the Alpha 87a.

Just as a general comment...Over the years all of my good memories in Ham Radio using AMPs were with my friends Alpha's (I'm positve one was an 87a).

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Thank you for all of your help these last weeks.

Happy New Year to You All

Chuck
WA4PEQ

776. RE: [Alpha87a] New To Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 02:00:48 UTC
From: W7USR/TOM
Topic: 774 Message: 776

Hello Chuck,

I just received one of the Pre-Owned Alpha 87A's from RF concepts.

The unit was fully upgraded with the Optional fan added. The unit looks like new and operates as I had hoped. I have owned many Amps and this was my Quest to own an 87A.

I made the right decision.

Tom Coughlin

W7USR

Whiskey Seven United States Radio

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Chuck Brinegar
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 4:31 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] New To Group

Good Evening....

The name here is Chuck (brand new to the group) and I wanted to let you know for the last 60 days I have been trying to find out more information about the general "Pros and Cons" of Alpha AMPs ; which has now lead me to the Alpha 87a.

Just as a general comment...Over the years all of my good memories in Ham Radio using AMPs were with my friends Alpha's (I'm positve one was an 87a).

I am now of the belief that a Certified Preowned Alpha would be the way to go...Perhaps local 87a if all the mods were installed and the original owner was selling.

I wrote to Molly at Alpha to get more info on what problems she has seen over the years and what mods are performed to the 87a's they sell as Certified Preowned.

If Y'all have any input to the "general problems" you have seen over the years, I'd appreciate it very much; any additional comments would be valued as well.

Thank you for all of your help these last weeks.

Happy New Year to You All

Chuck

WA4PEQ

777. Optional Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 02:30:25 UTC
From: w7usr
Topic: 777 Message: 777

Can someone tell me if the optional fan attached to the outise of the case behind the transformer, is required for SSB operation.

Tom/W7USR
A delighted Pre-owned 87A owner

778. Re: [Alpha87a] Optional Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 03:15:51 UTC
From: MICHAEL HUGHES
Topic: 777 Message: 778

Purpose is to cool the transformer. I wouldn't think not cooling the transformer would be a good move.

I have the 9500 and you can barely tell the amplifier is on. Not bad mouthing the AL1500 because I think

overall it is a GREAT amplifier, however, it is noisy comparatively speaking.

Mike.

----- Original Message -----
From: w7usr
To: Alpha87a@...m
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 9:30 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Optional Fan

Can someone tell me if the optional fan attached to the outise of the case behind the transformer, is required for SSB operation.

Tom/W7USR
A delighted Pre-owned 87A owner

779. Re: [Alpha87a] New To Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-04 03:20:33 UTC
From: MICHAEL HUGHES
Topic: 774 Message: 779

Try reading the reviews on EHAM.NET. I have and I think they are worth the trouble. There is always an unhappy owner

as well as the guy that thinks he struck gold. The truth comes out however if you read them all thru and thru.

Mike, NY9Y.

I did and I bought a one year old 9500, not because I didn't like the 87A but because it is more tolerant of a bit more VISOR.
Would have bought the 87A but it just happened that Molly at RF Concepts had a one year old 9500 taken on trade in.

----- Original Message -----
From: tneill1648@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 7:58 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] New To Group

Hi Chuck

I support your theory to buy a Certified pre-owned 87A. Molly and the folks at Alpha will take care of you.

I have been using two Alpha 87A's for years and dearly love them.

Tom

K4XG

In a message dated 1/3/2011 6:31:33 P.M. Central Standard Time, chuck_brinegar@... writes:

Good Evening....

The name here is Chuck (brand new to the group) and I wanted to let you know for the last 60 days I have been trying to find out more information about the general "Pros and Cons" of Alpha AMPs ; which has now lead me to the Alpha 87a.

Just as a general comment...Over the years all of my good memories in Ham Radio using AMPs were with my friends Alpha's (I'm positve one was an 87a).

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I wrote to Molly at Alpha to get more info on what problems she has seen over the years and what mods are performed to the 87a's they sell as Certified Preowned.

If Y'all have any input to the "general problems" you have seen over the years, I'd appreciate it very much; any additional comments would be valued as well.

Thank you for all of your help these last weeks.

Happy New Year to You All

Chuck
WA4PEQ

780. Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-25 18:00:35 UTC
From: chuck_brinegar
Topic: 780 Message: 780

Hello Group,

I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.

My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?

In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.

I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas here. I'm doing all I can to ensure these antennas are resonant to begin-with at their operating frequency.

Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.

Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.

Thank you and 73's

Chuck
WA4PEQ

781. Re: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-25 19:15:42 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 780 Message: 781

Chuck

I have two 87As and use them with the Palstar AT-1500 automatic tuner.
Works great.

Tom K4XG

In a message dated 1/25/2011 12:00:39 P.M. Central Standard Time,
chuck_brinegar@... writes:

Hello Group,

I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.

My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?

In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.

I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas
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at their operating frequency.

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auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.

Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.

Thank you and 73's

Chuck
WA4PEQ

Yahoo! Groups Links

782. Re: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-25 18:24:32 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 780 Message: 782

Chuck,
I would be very uncomfortable using a BN-86 balun with the Alpha. That balun is only rated at 500 watts key down and it is a voltage balun. You would be much better off with(and safer) with the BN-4000.
FWIT
73,
Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----
From: "chuck_brinegar" <chuck_brinegar@...>
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:00 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's

> Hello Group,
>
> I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
>
> My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
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> In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
> into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.
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> Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
>
> Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
>
> Thank you and 73's
>
> Chuck
> WA4PEQ
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links

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783. Re: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-25 19:39:37 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 780 Message: 783

Hello Chuck,

The 87A had reflected power fault protection based on the value of reflected power, not on the load SWR. At the factory the 87A is set to trip to standby at 220w of reflected power, no matter what the forward power. This is to protect the T/R PIN diodes.

This means that if you really have to, you can transmit into a load with a terrible SWR as long as the reflected power is lower than 220w. You would do that by lowering the forward power (lower drive to amp).

73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts (formerly Alpha Radio Products)

On Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 11:00 AM, chuck_brinegar
<chuck_brinegar@...>wrote:

>
>
> Hello Group,
>
> I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
>
> My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
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> In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
> into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.
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> I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas
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> begin-with at their operating frequency.
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> Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
>
> Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
>
> Thank you and 73's
>
> Chuck
> WA4PEQ
>
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> _,_._,__

>
--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

784. Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 02:21:37 UTC
From: chuck_brinegar
Topic: 780 Message: 784

Tom

Two 87a's !!! Thats wonderful, you must have a contest station set up. As I understand Palstar is making a new automatic tuner. I love my LDG auto tuner for my 100 W FT-847 =0).

I would be very happy with the manual-tuned 2KW tuner they market; if I change frequency I'll take the "extra-minute" to tune (1500 W is serious-stuff).

As a side-note...I am so-frustrated with the "back and forth" terminology people use to market their tuners...My favorite is a 3KW tuner that is only good for 1.5 KW input...Just tell me the PEP output power (please).

Tom...I'm asuming (once tuned) you had more than enough capability with your 1500 W Palstar for the occasional "oops" into the 2000 watt range.

Thank you for your help

Chuck
WA4PEQ

Tom K4XG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Chuck
>
> I have two 87As and use them with the Palstar AT-1500 automatic tuner.
> Works great.
>
> Tom K4XG
>
>
> In a message dated 1/25/2011 12:00:39 P.M. Central Standard Time,
> chuck_brinegar@... writes:
>
> Hello Group,
>
> I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
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> Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
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> Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
>
> Thank you and 73's
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> Chuck
> WA4PEQ
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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785. Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 02:21:52 UTC
From: chuck_brinegar
Topic: 780 Message: 785

Tom

Two 87a's !!! Thats wonderful, you must have a contest station set up. As I understand Palstar is making a new automatic tuner. I love my LDG auto tuner for my 100 W FT-847 =0).

I would be very happy with the manual-tuned 2KW tuner they market; if I change frequency I'll take the "extra-minute" to tune (1500 W is serious-stuff).

As a side-note...I am so-frustrated with the "back and forth" terminology people use to market their tuners...My favorite is a 3KW tuner that is only good for 1.5 KW input...Just tell me the PEP output power (please).

Tom...I'm asuming (once tuned) you had more than enough capability with your 1500 W Palstar for the occasional "oops" into the 2000 watt range.

Thank you for your help

Chuck
WA4PEQ

Tom K4XG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Chuck
>
> I have two 87As and use them with the Palstar AT-1500 automatic tuner.
> Works great.
>
> Tom K4XG
>
>
> In a message dated 1/25/2011 12:00:39 P.M. Central Standard Time,
> chuck_brinegar@... writes:
>
> Hello Group,
>
> I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
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> My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
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> In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
> into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.
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> I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas
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> Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
>
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> Thank you and 73's
>
> Chuck
> WA4PEQ
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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786. Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 02:30:13 UTC
From: chuck_brinegar
Topic: 780 Message: 786

Bob,

Thank you for the advise on the BN-86 Balun. I did not look at the specs close enough. The advertisement said "1500W PEP".

Like you mentioned for RTTY "its only 500 W". This has been a frustrating thing for me to "sift through" the claims that people make for tuners and now baluns.

As I save for the 87a this year and make changes (buy a tuner, etc.) to the station I will have a balun other than a BN-86.

I appreciate your help...Thats a mistake wating to happen.

If you have any other suggestions, they will be welcome.

73's

Chuck
WA4PEQ

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@...> wrote:
>
> Chuck,
> I would be very uncomfortable using a BN-86 balun with the Alpha. That
> balun is only rated at 500 watts key down and it is a voltage balun. You
> would be much better off with(and safer) with the BN-4000.
> FWIT
> 73,
> Bob W6VY
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "chuck_brinegar" <chuck_brinegar@...>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:00 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's
>
>
> > Hello Group,
> >
> > I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> > Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
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> > My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
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> > In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
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> > I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas
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> > Chuck
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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787. Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 02:58:37 UTC
From: chuck_brinegar
Topic: 780 Message: 787

Hello Glenn,

I appreciate your comment very much. Never expected to hear from you (i.e. "the company..."I'm not worthy" =0)).

My blog was to ask for the basic-need of a tuner for the 87a. I see so-many people using them and was wondering if they were even necessary (could this have been because of SWR problems...?) The Operating Manual was very-specific about having a "resonant-antenna".

In my particular-case the Yagi (TH6-DX) and Inverted-Vee's are resonant on the CW portion of the bands and a tuner could make my life "easier" when moving around in frequency. Im not using ladder line and dont see it anytime soon.

I had no clue the Hi SWR Fault was for a reflected power of 220W, no matter what the forward power. This makes sense to protect the T/R PIN diodes.

As particular as I am I'd never transmit into an antenna-load with a terrible SWR and a reflected power close to 220w. Its going to bad-news for everyone (baluns, traps, amp, etc.)

I've written to Molly a few times (say hi) and I hope to see you the the Orlando Hamfest this year.

QRO Challenged in Florida,

Chuck
WA4PEQ

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Chuck,
>
> The 87A had reflected power fault protection based on the value of
> reflected power, not on the load SWR. At the factory the 87A is set to trip
> to standby at 220w of reflected power, no matter what the forward power.
> This is to protect the T/R PIN diodes.
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> This means that if you really have to, you can transmit into a load with a
> terrible SWR as long as the reflected power is lower than 220w. You would
> do that by lowering the forward power (lower drive to amp).
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> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> RF Concepts (formerly Alpha Radio Products)
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> On Tue, Jan 25, 2011 at 11:00 AM, chuck_brinegar
> <chuck_brinegar@...>wrote:

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> > Hello Group,
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> > In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could tune
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> > here. I'm doing all I can to ensure these antennas are resonant to
> > begin-with at their operating frequency.
> >
> > Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> > auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
> >
> > Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
> >
> > Thank you and 73's
> >
> > Chuck
> > WA4PEQ
> >
> >
> >
> > _,_._,__
> >
> --
> "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

788. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 04:01:19 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 780 Message: 788

Chuck

In addition to the 87A amplifiers I also have an Alpha 77SX (Two 8877s) and the Command 2500E (Three 3CX800s). I never run more than the legal limit unless it is a mistake on my part. The Palstar AT-1500 has no problem at 2500 watts on the rare occasion when I drive one of the amps too hard.

Tom K4XG

In a message dated 1/26/2011 8:21:48 P.M. Central Standard Time, chuck_brinegar@... writes:

Tom

Two 87a's !!! Thats wonderful, you must have a contest station set up. As I understand Palstar is making a new automatic tuner. I love my LDG auto tuner for my 100 W FT-847 =0).

I would be very happy with the manual-tuned 2KW tuner they market; if I change frequency I'll take the "extra-minute" to tune (1500 W is serious-stuff).

As a side-note...I am so-frustrated with the "back and forth" terminology people use to market their tuners...My favorite is a 3KW tuner that is only good for 1.5 KW input...Just tell me the PEP output power (please).

Tom...I'm asuming (once tuned) you had more than enough capability with your 1500 W Palstar for the occasional "oops" into the 2000 watt range.

Thank you for your help

Chuck
WA4PEQ

Tom K4XG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, tneill1648@... wrote:
>
> Chuck
>
> I have two 87As and use them with the Palstar AT-1500 automatic tuner.
> Works great.
>
> Tom K4XG
>
>
> In a message dated 1/25/2011 12:00:39 P.M. Central Standard Time,
> chuck_brinegar@... writes:

>
> Hello Group,
>
> I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading the
> Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
>
> My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
>
> In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could
tune
> into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant load.
>
> I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for antennas
> here. I'm doing all I can to ensure these antennas are resonant to
begin-with
> at their operating frequency.
>
> Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
>
> Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
>
> Thank you and 73's
>
> Chuck
> WA4PEQ
>
>
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

789. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Antenna Tuner's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 04:04:25 UTC
From: tneill1648@aol.com
Topic: 780 Message: 789

Chuck

I failed to comment on the BN-86 BALUN. They are worthless. Please go
with the BN-4000 for trouble free operation.

Tom K4XG

In a message dated 1/26/2011 8:30:23 P.M. Central Standard Time,
chuck_brinegar@... writes:

Bob,

Thank you for the advise on the BN-86 Balun. I did not look at the specs
close enough. The advertisement said "1500W PEP".

Like you mentioned for RTTY "its only 500 W". This has been a frustrating
thing for me to "sift through" the claims that people make for tuners and
now baluns.

As I save for the 87a this year and make changes (buy a tuner, etc.) to
the station I will have a balun other than a BN-86.

I appreciate your help...Thats a mistake wating to happen.

If you have any other suggestions, they will be welcome.

73's

Chuck
WA4PEQ

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@...> wrote:
>
> Chuck,
> I would be very uncomfortable using a BN-86 balun with the Alpha. That
> balun is only rated at 500 watts key down and it is a voltage balun. You
> would be much better off with(and safer) with the BN-4000.
> FWIT
> 73,
> Bob W6VY
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "chuck_brinegar" <chuck_brinegar@...>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 10:00 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Antenna Tuner's
>
>

> > Hello Group,
> >
> > I am trying to learn more about the operation of the 87a by reading
the
> > Instuction Manual and looking at the Block Diagrams.
> >
> > My question is: How badly the Alpha needs an antenna tuner?
> >
> > In my reading, I dont remember the specific-VSWR that the AMP could
tune
> > into; just that it is "picky" and faults-easily without a resonant
load.
> >
> > I'm using a HyGain TH6-DX (BN-86 balun) and Inverted Vee's for
antennas
> > here. I'm doing all I can to ensure these antennas are resonant to
> > begin-with at their operating frequency.
> >
> > Palomar makes a series of tuners that look very-good. Dont see any
> > auto-tuners I'd trust with 1500+ watts.
> >
> > Any comments would be welcome and appreciated.
> >
> > Thank you and 73's
> >
> > Chuck
> > WA4PEQ
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > ------------------------------------
> >
> > Yahoo! Groups Links
> >
> >
> >
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

790. Antenna switches for Aplha 87A DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 12:44:20 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 790 Message: 790

Hi all,

I have an Alpha 87A and have recently picked up a DAS. I want to use it to automatically switch between some 160M and 80M wires and my HF beam at my remote station.

Can anyone advise me which antenna switches are still available that work with the DAS.

Regards

Chris VK5CP

791. Re: [Alpha87a] Antenna switches for Aplha 87A DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-27 13:14:41 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 790 Message: 791

Hi Chris,

I guess all switches with 12V relay are OK. Check the FILE folder in this group, you will find the ALPHA DAS folder where I put all the manuals I found.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/1/27 Christopher Platt <vk5cp@...>

>
>
> Hi all,
>
> I have an Alpha 87A and have recently picked up a DAS. I want to use it to
> automatically switch between some 160M and 80M wires and my HF beam at my
> remote station.
>
> Can anyone advise me which antenna switches are still available that work
> with the ALPHA DAS.
>
> Regards
>
> Chris VK5CP
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

792. Re: Antenna switches for Aplha 87A DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-29 00:13:20 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 790 Message: 792

I use the DAS with my 87A. I purchased a "Six Way Relay Box" by "Top Ten Devices". You have to check the DAS manual to determine whether it makes or breaks the 12V circuit upon antenna selection. Frankly, I don't recall. It has been years.

When you determine that, you can contact Top Ten Devices and they will modify the box accordingly. They were very cooperative. They make relay boxes for both outdoor and indoor installation.

Good luck & 73

Jim K7EG

793. Antenna Tuners for Alpha 87A DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-01-29 18:42:10 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 793 Message: 793

I am not familiar with the 87A DAS and use the Top Ten Devices Band Decoder with my Yaesu FT1000 MP and the Top Ten Devices antenna Relay box. As Jim Denneny mentioned, you might be able to use the Top Tep Devices Relay Box with your DAS, and I have found my relay box to be very reliable and versatile. I no longer use it with my 160M inverted V Antenna as I found long term degredation of the relays in the box on that band at maximum power levels. No problems on other bands at maximum power levels. It has been under the eaves of my roof for about 6 years now.

John Owens - N7TK

Celebrating over 50 Years in Ham Radio
No. 1 Honor Roll

794. Curious question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-06 15:42:26 UTC
From: wa2sry
Topic: 794 Message: 794

I just took my cover off my new to me 87a (loose transformer locating post) and used my magnetic cup to hold the screws and they are not magnetic. Perhaps stainless?

I had the privelage in meeting Molly at the Richmond, VA "Frost Fest" as nice in person as on the phone.

73 Larry K1ZW/4
Durham, NC

795. Re: [Alpha87a] Curious question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-06 15:57:19 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 794 Message: 795

Non-magnetic machine screws are generally either stainless steel, or nickel-plated brass. I suspect the Alpha 87A uses stainless black-oxide screws for the cover.

Machine screws used in a commercial RF deck are often nickel/brass, supposedly because they exhibit better RF properties when circulating RF current is present.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: wa2sry
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 10:42 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Curious question

I just took my cover off my new to me 87a (loose transformer locating post) and used my magnetic cup to hold the screws and they are not magnetic. Perhaps stainless?

I had the privelage in meeting Molly at the Richmond, VA "Frost Fest" as nice in person as on the phone.

73 Larry K1ZW/4
Durham, NC

796. RE: [Alpha87a] Curious question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-07 14:43:45 UTC
From: k2waltk
Topic: 794 Message: 796

Hi Larry,

I was at Frost Fest on Saturday and also stopped by the booth
to personally thank Molly for the tremendous support I've
received every time I spoke with her, and all other great folks
at RFC. A class act indeed, in light of the buy/throw away business
we are being acculturated to these days.

Buy American!

73 de Walt - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

} Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 10:42 AM
} To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
} Subject: [Alpha87a] Curious question
}
}
}
} I just took my cover off my new to me 87a (loose transformer locating
post) and
} used my magnetic cup to hold the screws and they are not magnetic.
Perhaps
} stainless?
}
} I had the privelage in meeting Molly at the Richmond, VA "Frost Fest" as
nice in
} person as on the phone.
}
} 73 Larry K1ZW/4
} Durham, NC
}
}
}
}

797. Replacing faceplate 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-19 03:35:08 UTC
From: Al Tecce
Topic: 797 Message: 797

Has anyone replaced the front faceplate on there 87A. I could not find any directions to do so. Is it fairly simple or is it a process. Thanks in advance for any help on this subject.

798. Re: [Alpha87a] Replacing faceplate 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-19 11:22:52 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 797 Message: 798
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hi,

it is quite simple. First remove the main cover, then see the marked screws on the attached picture. There are maybe 8 or 10 screws which holds the front panel. Some of them are under the amp. Be careful when you are pulling the front panel away, there are some cables going to the main switches on the plate.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/2/19 Al Tecce <altc427@...>

>
>
> Has anyone replaced the front faceplate on there 87A. I could not find any
> directions to do so. Is it fairly simple or is it a process. Thanks in
> advance for any help on this subject.
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

799. Re: Replacing faceplate 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-19 15:15:23 UTC
From: Al Tecce
Topic: 797 Message: 799

Ok thanks it looks simple enough thanks for the help

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> it is quite simple. First remove the main cover, then see the marked screws
> on the attached picture. There are maybe 8 or 10 screws which holds the
> front panel. Some of them are under the amp. Be careful when you are pulling
> the front panel away, there are some cables going to the main switches on
> the plate.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/2/19 Al Tecce <altc427@...>
>
> >
> >
> > Has anyone replaced the front faceplate on there 87A. I could not find any
> > directions to do so. Is it fairly simple or is it a process. Thanks in
> > advance for any help on this subject.
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

800. Alpha 87a_CAT (Release 1.3.3) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-20 16:50:13 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 800 Message: 800

A new release 1.3.3 of the software is available with a new layout.

I hope you enjoy the program

Walter, HB9ZS

http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/index.html

801. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a_CAT (Release 1.3.3) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-20 17:00:33 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 800 Message: 801

Excellent changes, Walter! Thanks! Love your program. Vielen dank!

73

Joe
WD?M

On 2/20/2011 9:50 AM, hb9zs wrote:
>
> A new release 1.3.3 of the software is available with a new layout.
>
> I hope you enjoy the program
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/index.html
>
>

802. FW: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a_CAT (Release 1.3.3) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-20 22:16:21 UTC
From: k2waltk
Topic: 802 Message: 802

The first version of Alpha87a_CAT was a great and useful utility.
Walter has now taken it to the next level. A great redesign with
direct access to individual band segments, and more. An indispensable tool
when troubleshooting the 87a. Thank you, Walter!

73 de Walt - K2WK

803. Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 20:08:15 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 803 Message: 803

Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except Alpha Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.

Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email

Jim K7EG

804. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 20:25:37 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 803 Message: 804

I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except Alpha
Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.

Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email

Jim K7EG

805. Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:12:38 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 803 Message: 805

Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except Alpha
> Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
>
> Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
>
> Jim K7EG
>

806. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:13:47 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 803 Message: 806

Hi Walter - I did the upgrade - works fine here.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 2/21/2011 2:12 PM, hb9zs wrote:
>
> Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
> or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
> >
> > I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >
> >
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> >
> > Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program
> except Alpha
> > Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> > Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
> >
> > Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
> >
> > Jim K7EG
> >
>
>

807. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:17:29 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 803 Message: 807

I did it as a new installation and have the problem, Walter. Can I just copy the updated file into the new folder?

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except
Alpha
> Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
>
> Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
>
> Jim K7EG
>

808. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:23:51 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 803 Message: 808

New installation. I removed old version. I installed full 1.3.3 and then installed 1.3.3 update. N7US has same problem

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of hb9zs
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 1:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
>
> Jim N7US
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except Alpha
> Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
>
> Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
>
> Jim K7EG
>

809. Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:50:47 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 803 Message: 809

I fixed the problem
download the updatefile 1.3.4
andreplace

73 Walter,HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> New installation. I removed old version. I installed full 1.3.3 and then
> installed 1.3.3 update. N7US has same problem
>
>
>
> Jim
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of hb9zs
> Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 1:13 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3
>
>
>
>
>
> Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
> or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
> McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> >
> > I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
> >
> > Jim N7US
> >
> >
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> >
> > Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except
> Alpha

> > Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> > Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
> >
> > Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
> >
> > Jim K7EG
> >
>

810. Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 21:56:52 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 803 Message: 810

replace the old Alpha 87 CAT.exe file with the new one (Release 1.3.4)

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> I fixed the problem
> download the updatefile 1.3.4
> andreplace
>
> 73 Walter,HB9ZS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> >
> > New installation. I removed old version. I installed full 1.3.3 and then
> > installed 1.3.3 update. N7US has same problem
> >
> >
> >
> > Jim
> >
> >
> >
> > From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> > Of hb9zs
> > Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 1:13 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
> > or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
> > McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
> > >
> > > Jim N7US

> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > -----Original Message-----
> > >
> > > Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except
> > Alpha
> > > Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> > > Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
> > >
> > > Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
> > >
> > > Jim K7EG
> > >
> >
>

811. Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 22:06:45 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 803 Message: 811

I will upload the complete new installation 1.3.4 to morrow.

Good night it's 23.00
Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> replace the old Alpha 87 CAT.exe file with the new one (Release 1.3.4)
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> > I fixed the problem
> > download the updatefile 1.3.4
> > andreplace
> >
> > 73 Walter,HB9ZS
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > >
> > > New installation. I removed old version. I installed full 1.3.3 and then
> > > installed 1.3.3 update. N7US has same problem
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Jim
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> > > Of hb9zs
> > > Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 1:13 PM
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
> > > or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?
> > >

> > > Walter, HB9ZS
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
> > > McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
> > > >
> > > > Jim N7US
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > >
> > > > Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program except
> > > Alpha
> > > > Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I checked
> > > > Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
> > > >
> > > > Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
> > > >
> > > > Jim K7EG
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

812. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-21 22:17:23 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 803 Message: 812

Thanks Walter. Yes, V1.3.4 fixed the problem.

73

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of hb9zs
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3

I will upload the complete new installation 1.3.4 to morrow.

Good night it's 23.00
Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> replace the old Alpha 87 CAT.exe file with the new one (Release 1.3.4)
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> > I fixed the problem
> > download the updatefile 1.3.4
> > andreplace
> >
> > 73 Walter,HB9ZS
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > >
> > > New installation. I removed old version. I installed full 1.3.3 and
then
> > > installed 1.3.3 update. N7US has same problem
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Jim

> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> > > Of hb9zs
> > > Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 1:13 PM
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A CAT Control V1.3.3
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Is this problem with a new Installation of the program
> > > or when using the update file to update to release 1.3.3?
> > >
> > > Walter, HB9ZS
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
<mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim
> > > McDonald" <jim@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > I hadn't noticed before, Jim, but same here.
> > > >
> > > > Jim N7US
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > -----Original Message-----
> > > >
> > > > Installed 1.3.3. Everything seems normal between amp & program
except
> > > Alpha
> > > > Meter Panel is not registering any values when amp is keyed. I
checked
> > > > Meter Panel under Program. Panel appears but does not indicate.
> > > >
> > > > Amy ideas? Sent Walter an email
> > > >
> > > > Jim K7EG
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

813. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT (Release 1.3.3) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 05:00:53 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 800 Message: 813

What a great piece of software.

Thanks,
D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> A new release 1.3.3 of the software is available with a new layout.
>
> I hope you enjoy the program
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/index.html
>

814. Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 05:03:54 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 814 Message: 814

How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has it, but I am not sure it is turned on.

Thanks,
D.

815. Alpha Antenna Tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 05:10:11 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 815 Message: 815

I seem to remember the talk of Alpha making an antenna tuner.

What is the scoop?

73.
D.

816. Re: Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 06:58:38 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 814 Message: 816

The "Alpha 87a CAT" program will enable the Alpha Max.
You have nothing to do.

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has it, but I am not sure it is turned on.
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

817. Re: Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 13:54:45 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 814 Message: 817

I saw that. It made me wonder if I had AlphaMax running this whole time.

The HRD integration is really slick.

Walter,
This app rocks!

Thanks,
D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> The "Alpha 87a CAT" program will enable the Alpha Max.
> You have nothing to do.
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@> wrote:
> >
> > How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has it, but I am not sure it is turned on.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > D.
> >
>

818. Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 14:31:36 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 818 Message: 818

To day I modified the program as follow:

Layout arrangement of the push buttons

Functions of the "Manual" - "Auto" Switch:

If the "Tune" or "Load" will be manually changed by the "UP" "DOWN" pushbuttons of the program the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch to manual.

If the transmitting frequency will be changed about 10 KHz the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch back to "Auto" and the Linear will be tuned according to the stored settings of the Alpha 87a.

Also a change by the Band or Segment Pushbuttons of the program will have a change to "Auto"

I have the beta test program as Zip File on:

http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip

Replace the existing exe file by the new file in the Alpha 87a CAT folder.

Any comments are very appreciated

Walter, HB9ZS

819. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 14:33:04 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 814 Message: 819

Here are some notes about using the Alpha Max feature of the 87A.
73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts
==========

Using The 87A with AlphaMax Firmware

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A, the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax program would do if it was enabled.

An addendum to the 87A manual was included with AlphaMax kits that were installed in the field.

* You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and save the settings in USER memories.* You do this by pressing ENTER and then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on.

When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50 ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in operate and warmed up.

* The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:*

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out, fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the

plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220, 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

On Mon, Feb 21, 2011 at 10:03 PM, D. <wg5j@...> wrote:

>
>
> How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has it, but I
> am not sure it is turned on.
> Thanks,
> D.
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

820. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 15:38:47 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 818 Message: 820

Thanks Walter. V1.3.5 looks good.

Jim K7EG

821. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 16:41:54 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 818 Message: 821

Walter

I have found one minor problem with V1.3.5. It is unique to my setup.

My setup has both the Alpha 87A and the ETO Digital Antenna Selector (DAS). They are interconnected. So,when 87A changes bands, the DAS selects correct antenna for each band. If DAS powers off for any reason, no antenna is selected. I like to listen to band conditions with only my Elecraft K3 transceiver on and DAS manually turned on (with 87A turned off to save power and unnecessary wear and tear). I do not turn 87A power on unless it is needed.

Here is my problem. When Alpha CAT program is loaded and 87A is off, the DAS will not stay power on. If I manually power DAS on with K3 on (and 87a power off), the DAS immediately powers off. If I close Alpha CAT program, I can manually turn DAS power on.

This is not a big issue. My work around is: do not auto-load Alpha CAT program unless I am ready to turn 87A on. I thought you might wish to be aware of this minor issue.

Thanks for the great program. We all appreciate your contributions.

73

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> To day I modified the program as follow:
>
> Layout arrangement of the push buttons
>
> Functions of the "Manual" - "Auto" Switch:
>
> If the "Tune" or "Load" will be manually changed by the "UP" "DOWN" pushbuttons of the program the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch to manual.
>
> If the transmitting frequency will be changed about 10 KHz the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch back to "Auto" and the Linear will be tuned according to the stored settings of the Alpha 87a.
>
> Also a change by the Band or Segment Pushbuttons of the program will have a change to "Auto"
>
> I have the beta test program as Zip File on:
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip
>
> Replace the existing exe file by the new file in the Alpha 87a CAT folder.

>
> Any comments are very appreciated
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>

822. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 17:08:11 UTC
From: W4CCS
Topic: 814 Message: 822

If the "Default" light blinking on the 87A, You have AlphaMax enabled.

On 2/22/2011 8:54 AM, D. wrote:
>
> I saw that. It made me wonder if I had AlphaMax running this whole time.
>
> The HRD integration is really slick.
>
> Walter,
> This app rocks!
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
> >
> > The "Alpha 87a CAT" program will enable the Alpha Max.
> > You have nothing to do.
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "D." <wg5j@> wrote:
> > >
> > > How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has
> it, but I am not sure it is turned on.
> > >
> > > Thanks,
> > > D.
> > >
> >
>
>

823. Re: Alpha max

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-22 21:00:07 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 814 Message: 823

If in the Program the Alpha Max is "Enabled" (red) then
the "Default" LED of the Alpha Amplifier is blinking.

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, W4CCS <w4ccs@...> wrote:
>
> If the "Default" light blinking on the 87A, You have AlphaMax enabled.
>
>
> On 2/22/2011 8:54 AM, D. wrote:
> >
> > I saw that. It made me wonder if I had AlphaMax running this whole time.
> >
> > The HRD integration is really slick.
> >
> > Walter,
> > This app rocks!
> >
> > Thanks,
> > D.
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> > "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> > >
> > > The "Alpha 87a CAT" program will enable the Alpha Max.
> > > You have nothing to do.
> > >
> > > Walter, HB9ZS
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> > "D." <wg5j@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > How does one know if your Alpha Max is enabled? I know my 87A has
> > it, but I am not sure it is turned on.
> > > >
> > > > Thanks,
> > > > D.
> > > >
> > >
> >
> >
>

824. 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-23 03:39:46 UTC
From: Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)
Topic: 824 Message: 824

Hello Group,

I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to remove, repair and install the repaired cap.

I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it never needs to be used ;)

Here is the link.

https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#

I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I hope someone here can help.

1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to "reset" AlphaMax's memory?

2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and my BSD workstation.

Thanks, 73!

Lee
WW2DX.com

. .

825. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-23 04:50:08 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 824 Message: 825

Hi Lee,

thanks for sharing that with us. I have added the link to Picasa from this reflector.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/2/23 Lee J. Imber (WW2DX) <lee@ww2dx.com>

>
>
> Hello Group,
>
> I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I
> have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to
> remove, repair and install the repaired cap.
>
> I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it
> never needs to be used ;)
>
> Here is the link.
>
> https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#
>
> I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I
> hope someone here can help.
>
> 1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the
> memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp
> attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some
> "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair
> things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were
> they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to
> "reset" AlphaMax's memory?
>
> 2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long
> time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the
> project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the
> recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and
> play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would
> be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and
> my BSD workstation.
>
> Thanks, 73!
>
> Lee

> WW2DX.com
>
> . .
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

826. RE: [Alpha87a] 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-23 05:14:46 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 824 Message: 826

Great documentation Lee. Looks daunting to me. Would like to hear from Alpha that this is the only known failure like this requiring removal of load cap - surely hope so as I am not wishing to attempt this.

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 7:40 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Hello Group,

I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to remove, repair and install the repaired cap.

I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it never needs to be used ;)

Here is the link.

https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#
<https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair>

I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I hope someone here can help.

1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to "reset" AlphaMax's memory?

2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and my BSD workstation.

Thanks, 73!

Lee
WW2DX.com

. .

827. Re: 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-23 17:19:19 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 824 Message: 827

Lee,

Quite the repair. I've done many repairs to my 87A over the years to avoid sending the amp back to Alpha. But the level of surgery required to fix your cap would probably have led me to bite the bullet and return the amp for what I'm sure would be a very expensive repair.

As far as I know, AlphaMax doesn't have any memories of its own. When you select a frequency segment, the amp picks up the stored positions for the band switch, Tune and Load caps from the segment memory and sets the switch and caps accordingly, just as it would if AlphaMax wasn't turned on. AlphaMax then uses those settings as a starting point to fine tune. AlphaMax is pretty good, so even if the settings in the memory aren't perfect, as is often the case in my station (I haven't retuned my memories in years), AlphaMax can usually find the right tuning (that said, most of my antennas are resonant or pretty close.) But that isn't happening. Let's try to figure out why...

Judging from the way to tab and sensor are arranged, it's likely that the tab tells the amp what the "Home" position of the cap is. That's how the Acom 2000A works, though it uses a wheel with marks on it instead of a tab. You'll notice that after the warmup period the amp turns the caps to seek and find the Home position, which could be when the tab crosses the sensor (though not necessarily.) Then the amp repositions the caps to the previously selected settings by retrieving the required number of motor pulses, relative to Home, to get to that position.

My guess is that the current relationship between the positions of sensor tab and the cap fins isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was originally built and calibrated. Consequently, the calibration is no longer valid for AlphaMax. While it's reasonable to assume, as you did, that the starting positions of the tab/fins for the Load cap are the same as for the Tune cap, that may not be the case. Or, more likely, the position you chose doesn't exactly match the calibration done at the factory.

You can verify that this is the problem by setting the amp to use the Default tuning parameters (just hit the Default button), then transmitting into a dummy load. If the tuning is way off, then the Default parameters stored at the factory are no longer valid for the relationship between the sensor tab and Load cap fins.

When you retuned the amp and stored new User settings, those settings were valid for the new relationship between the sensor tab and Load fins. In other words, the amp knows how many pulses are needed to get from Home to whatever tuning position you saved, even if the Home position isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was built. The only side effect might be inability to tune certain antennas that require the caps to be near their extreme postions.

You would think that AlphaMax would be able to fine tune the amp relative to your new User settings, but my guess is that AlphaMax needs to know roughly how far it's moving the caps each time it tests a new setting. In order to do that, the amp needs to know how many pulses are required to move the cap from one end to another. I would bet that this number varies from one cap/motor pair to another, just like it does for antenna rotors, and has to

be calibrated at the factory when the amp is built. If you change the relationship between the sensor tab and fins, even by a relatively small amount, the factory calibration is no longer valid, and the caps would move more (or less) on each tuning attempt than AlphaMax thinks they are moving. The only solution is to recalibrate the caps/motors.

My advice is to get on the phone with Alpha and ask them what to do. They may be able to share the calibration procedure with you. I know for sure that they can tell you how to reprogram the Default memories because I had to do that when my CPU was replaced after a lightning hit several years ago. The Default settings aren't crucial, at least until you sell the amp (the new owner deserves for then to be correct.) But if I'm right about the cap travel calibration, it's a critical adjustment for AlphaMax, as well as being required for the amp to have its full range of tuning capability.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)" <lee@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Group,
>
> I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to remove, repair and install the repaired cap.
>
> I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it never needs to be used ;)
>
> Here is the link.
>
> https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#
>
> I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I hope someone here can help.
>
> 1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to "reset" AlphaMax's memory?
>
> 2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and my BSD workstation.
>
> Thanks, 73!
>
> Lee
> WW2DX.com
>

> . .
>

828. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-24 17:11:42 UTC
From: Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)
Topic: 824 Message: 828

Thanks Dick for all the info, greatly appreciated.

The repair was actually very easy, it took me only an 1.5 hours to remove the bottom cap and that was while I was documenting each step and taking photos. I was actually very IMPRESSED with how modular the design is and how simple and painless it really was. Goes to show you the excellent engineering at Alpha.

The real work/thinking was about the cap itself and what route I was going take to repair or purchase a new one. In the end it worked out with the repair so it really only cost me my time to drive to a friends house who had the proper equipment to do it. This was a very good experience for me. I was very intimidated by this amp before this process and now I have a new level of confidence that I can probably fix most things that are not microprocessor related.

On to AlphaMax.

On Feb 23, 2011, at 12:19 PM, dickgreen03755 wrote:

> Lee,
>
> Quite the repair. I've done many repairs to my 87A over the years to avoid sending the amp back to Alpha. But the level of surgery required to fix your cap would probably have led me to bite the bullet and return the amp for what I'm sure would be a very expensive repair.
>
> As far as I know, AlphaMax doesn't have any memories of its own. When you select a frequency segment, the amp picks up the stored positions for the band switch, Tune and Load caps from the segment memory and sets the switch and caps accordingly, just as it would if AlphaMax wasn't turned on. AlphaMax then uses those settings as a starting point to fine tune. AlphaMax is pretty good, so even if the settings in the memory aren't perfect, as is often the case in my station (I haven't retuned my memories in years), AlphaMax can usually find the right tuning (that said, most of my antennas are resonant or pretty close.) But that isn't happening. Let's try to figure out why...

Same here, I don't own a tuner and all ant's are resonate so usually AlphaMax needs to do very little to "correct".

>
> Judging from the way to tab and sensor are arranged, it's likely that the tab tells the amp what the "Home" position of the cap is. That's how the Acom 2000A works, though it uses a wheel with marks on it instead of a tab. You'll notice that after the warmup period the amp turns the caps to seek and find the Home position, which could be when the tab crosses the sensor (though not necessarily.) Then the amp repositions the caps to the previously selected settings by retrieving the required number of motor pulses, relative to Home, to get to that position.

This is one mistake I made and I need to correct in my picasaweb notes. I did not take the original tab location in reference to the fin location. Later in assembly process I matched the LOAD cap settings with the TUNE cap settings and maybe that was a very poor assumption. Although, the more I think about it, in my case it does not matter. The shaft was spinning freely so I really had no accurate starting point. Maybe someone here on the reflector the next time they have theirs open could take a pic and send it to me ;)

>
> My guess is that the current relationship between the positions of sensor tab and the cap fins isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was originally built and calibrated. Consequently, the calibration is no longer valid for AlphaMax. While it's reasonable to assume, as you did, that the starting positions of the tab/fins for the Load cap are the same as for the Tune cap, that may not be the case. Or, more likely, the position you chose doesn't exactly match the calibration done at the factory.

Exactly.

>
> You can verify that this is the problem by setting the amp to use the Default tuning parameters (just hit the Default button), then transmitting into a dummy load. If the tuning is way off, then the Default parameters stored at the factory are no longer valid for the relationship between the sensor tab and Load cap fins.

>
> When you retuned the amp and stored new User settings, those settings were valid for the new relationship between the sensor tab and Load fins. In other words, the amp knows how many pulses are needed to get from Home to whatever tuning position you saved, even if the Home position isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was built. The only side effect might be inability to tune certain antennas that require the caps to be near their extreme positions.

I see.

>
> You would think that AlphaMax would be able to fine tune the amp relative to your new User settings, but my guess is that AlphaMax needs to know roughly how far it's moving the caps each time it tests a new setting. In order to do that, the amp needs to know how many pulses are required to move the cap from one end to another. I would bet that this number varies from one cap/motor pair to another, just like it does for antenna rotors, and has to be calibrated at the factory when the amp is built. If you change the relationship between the sensor tab and fins, even by a relatively small amount, the factory calibration is no longer valid, and the caps would move more (or less) on each tuning attempt than AlphaMax thinks they are moving. The only solution is to recalibrate the caps/motors.

Yep makes sense.

>
> My advice is to get on the phone with Alpha and ask them what to do. They may be able to share the calibration procedure with you. I know for sure that they can tell you how to reprogram the Default memories because I had to do that when my CPU was replaced after a lightning hit several years ago. The Default settings aren't crucial, at least until you sell the amp (the new owner deserves for then to be correct.) But if I'm right about the cap travel calibration, it's a critical adjustment for AlphaMax, as well as being required

for the amp to have its full range of tuning capability.

Thanks Dick, I may try out the new Alpha forum first and see what response I get there, I know that getting through to a tech when your amp is out of warranty is a bit challenging now (understandably).

I think we met at Dayton last year? If not will see you this year for sure at the Crowne, I owe you a cold one or maybe a couple ;)

Will keep you posted on the progress.

73!

Lee
WW2DX

>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)" <lee@...> wrote:
>>
>> Hello Group,
>>
>> I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to remove, repair and install the repaired cap.
>>
>> I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it never needs to be used ;)
>>
>> Here is the link.
>>
>> https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#
>>
>> I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I hope someone here can help.
>>
>> 1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to "reset" AlphaMax's memory?
>>
>> 2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and my BSD workstation.
>>
>> Thanks, 73!
>>

>> Lee
>> WW2DX.com
>>
>> . .
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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829. N1MM Logger and Alpha 87a CAT

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-25 13:15:39 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 829 Message: 829

I have tested a way to use N1MM Logger with Alpha 87a CAT and most of the known TRX with RS-232 Interface.
The interface to the Alpha 87a CAT program is the "OmniRig" program and a special CommServer of the Alpha 87a CAT program.

The OmniRig program is a universal interface to communicate with the most known Radios.

So also with out a logging program the OmniRig interface connect your Radio to the Alpha87a CAT program via a RS-232 port.

The URL to OmniRig is:
http://www.dxatlas.com/omnirig
http://www.dxatlas.com/Download.asp "OmniRig"

To connect the N1MM Logger and the OmniRig together you need a Port Splitter
- RS-232 Prot to the TRX
- Virtual Serial Port to the N1MM Logger and Alpha 87a CAT.

I use a program of:
http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html

The Alpha 87a CAT Program with Interface to "OmniRig" is at the moment a test program and I'm looking for two Ham's with computer knowledge as "BETA TESTER " and willing to write the installation procedure. Please send a private Email.

Thanks
Walter, HB9ZS

830. RE: [Alpha87a] N1MM Logger and Alpha 87a CAT

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-25 15:33:20 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 829 Message: 830

Walter

Great News!! I use LP-Bridge to split my K3 (38400baud) over many virtual ports to run SteppIR antennas, Commander, N1MM and Omnirig by W2RF. All ports are running at 38400baud based on K3 baudrate.

I currently run Alpha CAT or Alpha Remote with the 87A using a pc dedicated usb port com3 at 4800 baud. It is not clear how I would bring Alpha CAT into N1MM. Omnirig currently is used at 38400 to interface an SDR rx with panadaptor .

Can you describe your N1MM - W2RF(Omnirig) - AlphaCAT interface in more detail? I would be glad to help you anyway I can. However, I am not a software developer.

Thanks & 73

Jim

K7EG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of hb9zs
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 5:16 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] N1MM Logger and Alpha 87a CAT

I have tested a way to use N1MM Logger with Alpha 87a CAT and most of the known TRX with RS-232 Interface.
The interface to the Alpha 87a CAT program is the "OmniRig" program and a special CommServer of the Alpha 87a CAT program.

The OmniRig program is a universal interface to communicate with the most known Radios.

So also with out a logging program the OmniRig interface connect your Radio to the Alpha87a CAT program via a RS-232 port.

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To connect the N1MM Logger and the OmniRig together you need a Port Splitter

- RS-232 Prot to the TRX
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I use a program of:
http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html

The Alpha 87a CAT Program with Interface to "OmniRig" is at the moment a test program and I'm looking for two Ham's with computer knowledge as "BETA TESTER " and willing to write the installation procedure. Please send a private Email.

Thanks
Walter, HB9ZS

831. To replace or not to replace

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-25 16:14:40 UTC
From: Al Tecce
Topic: 831 Message: 831

I have a 1991 87A in excellent condition. I was told to replace the capacitors by several people. The Alpha experts I have spoken to says that they have a long lifespan. I was wondering if anyone has done this and documented it with pictures or video. Looks pretty straight forward but pictures would help. Thanks in advance for any help on this subject.

832. Re: 87a LOAD Capacitor Repair Document

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-25 19:33:35 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 824 Message: 832

Hi Lee,

My only comment is that even if you had been able to record the position of the tab, or knew where it should be (e.g, inside the optical sensor when the fins are fully meshed), the adjustment could be sensitive enough that it still might not match the factory calibration parameters, and AlphaMax could still fail or not work very well sometimes. I think your guess on where the tab should be is probabl close to correct, but it's probably not something that can be done manually without recalibrating the amp.

We might have met at Dayton. I was there last year for the first and only time!

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)" <lee@...> wrote:
>
> Thanks Dick for all the info, greatly appreciated.
>
> The repair was actually very easy, it took me only an 1.5 hours to remove the bottom cap and that was while I was documenting each step and taking photos. I was actually very IMPRESSED with how modular the design is and how simple and painless it really was. Goes to show you the excellent engineering at Alpha.
>
> The real work/thinking was about the cap itself and what route I was going take to repair or purchase a new one. In the end it worked out with the repair so it really only cost me my time to drive to a friends house who had the proper equipment to do it. This was a very good experience for me. I was very intimidated by this amp before this process and now I have a new level of confidence that I can probably fix most things that are not microprocessor related.
>
> On to AlphaMax.
>
>
> On Feb 23, 2011, at 12:19 PM, dickgreen03755 wrote:
>
> > Lee,
> >
> > Quite the repair. I've done many repairs to my 87A over the years to avoid sending the amp back to Alpha. But the level of surgery required to fix your cap would probably have led me to bite the bullet and return the amp for what I'm sure would be a very expensive repair.
> >
> > As far as I know, AlphaMax doesn't have any memories of its own. When you select a frequency segment, the amp picks up the stored positions for the band switch, Tune and Load caps from the segment memory and sets the switch and caps accordingly, just as it would if AlphaMax wasn't turned on. AlphaMax then uses those settings as a starting point to fine tune. AlphaMax is pretty good, so even if the settings in the memory aren't perfect, as is

often the case in my station (I haven't retuned my memories in years), AlphaMax can usually find the right tuning (that said, most of my antennas are resonant or pretty close.) But that isn't happening. Let's try to figure out why...
>
> Same here, I don't own a tuner and all ant's are resonate so usually AlphaMax needs to do very little to "correct".
>
> >
> > Judging from the way to tab and sensor are arranged, it's likely that the tab tells the amp what the "Home" position of the cap is. That's how the Acom 2000A works, though it uses a wheel with marks on it instead of a tab. You'll notice that after the warmup period the amp turns the caps to seek and find the Home position, which could be when the tab crosses the sensor (though not necessarily.) Then the amp repositions the caps to the previously selected settings by retrieving the required number of motor pulses, relative to Home, to get to that position.
>
> This is one mistake I made and I need to correct in my picasaweb notes. I did not take the original tab location in reference to the fin location. Later in assembly process I matched the LOAD cap settings with the TUNE cap settings and maybe that was a very poor assumption. Although, the more I think about it, in my case it does not matter. The shaft was spinning freely so I really had no accurate starting point. Maybe someone here on the reflector the next time they have theirs open could take a pic and send it to me ;)
>
>
> >
> > My guess is that the current relationship between the positions of sensor tab and the cap fins isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was originally built and calibrated. Consequently, the calibration is no longer valid for AlphaMax. While it's reasonable to assume, as you did, that the starting positions of the tab/fins for the Load cap are the same as for the Tune cap, that may not be the case. Or, more likely, the position you chose doesn't exactly match the calibration done at the factory.
>
> Exactly.
>
> >
> > You can verify that this is the problem by setting the amp to use the Default tuning parameters (just hit the Default button), then transmitting into a dummy load. If the tuning is way off, then the Default parameters stored at the factory are no longer valid for the relationship between the sensor tab and Load cap fins.
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> >
> > When you retuned the amp and stored new User settings, those settings were valid for the new relationship between the sensor tab and Load fins. In other words, the amp knows how many pulses are needed to get from Home to whatever tuning position you saved, even if the Home position isn't exactly the same as it was when your amp was built. The only side effect might be inability to tune certain antennas that require the caps to be near their extreme positions.
>
> I see.
>
> >

> > You would think that AlphaMax would be able to fine tune the amp relative to your new User settings, but my guess is that AlphaMax needs to know roughly how far it's moving the caps each time it tests a new setting. In order to do that, the amp needs to know how many pulses are required to move the cap from one end to another. I would bet that this number varies from one cap/motor pair to another, just like it does for antenna rotors, and has to be calibrated at the factory when the amp is built. If you change the relationship between the sensor tab and fins, even by a relatively small amount, the factory calibration is no longer valid, and the caps would move more (or less) on each tuning attempt than AlphaMax thinks they are moving. The only solution is to recalibrate the caps/motors.
>
> Yep makes sense.
>
> >
> > My advice is to get on the phone with Alpha and ask them what to do. They may be able to share the calibration procedure with you. I know for sure that they can tell you how to reprogram the Default memories because I had to do that when my CPU was replaced after a lightning hit several years ago. The Default settings aren't crucial, at least until you sell the amp (the new owner deserves for then to be correct.) But if I'm right about the cap travel calibration, it's a critical adjustment for AlphaMax, as well as being required for the amp to have its full range of tuning capability.
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> Thanks Dick, I may try out the new Alpha forum first and see what response I get there, I know that getting through to a tech when your amp is out of warranty is a bit challenging now (understandably).
>
> I think we met at Dayton last year? If not will see you this year for sure at the Crowne, I owe you a cold one or maybe a couple ;)
>
> Will keep you posted on the progress.
>
> 73!
>
> Lee
> WW2DX
>
> >
> > 73, Dick WC1M
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Lee J. Imber (WW2DX)" <lee@> wrote:
> >>
> >> Hello Group,
> >>
> >> I wanted to share my experience with a failed LOAD capacitor in my 87A. I have created a picasaweb album with the step by step procedure I used to remove, repair and install the repaired cap.
> >>
> >> I hope this helps someone else in the future. Well, actually I hope it never needs to be used ;)
> >>
> >> Here is the link.

> >>
> >> https://picasaweb.google.com/ljimber/Alpha87aRepair#
> >>
> >> I do have a couple questions that I have not had time to research and I hope someone here can help.
> >>
> >> 1. Since the repair, the amp tunes fine since I have manually reset all the memories. What is NOT working correctly is when I enable AlphaMax the amp attempts to fine tune and then trips. I suspect that AlphaMax has some "memories" of its own that need to be reset. I think since the cap repair things "feel" a little off to AlphaMax and he thinks things are not were they are supposed to be. Anyone have any insight on what can be done to "reset" AlphaMax's memory?
> >>
> >> 2. I am looking for a high resolution image of a 87a front panel. A long time ago I started a Java program to teach myself programming and the project I choose was to write a Java control program for the 87a. Since the recent post by Walter HB9ZS I have decided to pick that project back up and play around. I thought having a high res image that you can "click" on would be cool to control the amp. I wanted a program that would run on my Mac and my BSD workstation.
> >>
> >> Thanks, 73!
> >>
> >> Lee
> >> WW2DX.com
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> >> . .
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833. Re: [Alpha87a] To replace or not to replace

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-26 19:45:43 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 831 Message: 833

Hi,

we have the Alpha 77sx build in 1980 with its original power supply capacitor.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/2/25 Al Tecce <altc427@...>

>
>
> I have a 1991 87A in excellent condition. I was told to replace the
> capacitors by several people. The Alpha experts I have spoken to says that
> they have a long lifespan. I was wondering if anyone has done this and
> documented it with pictures or video. Looks pretty straight forward but
> pictures would help. Thanks in advance for any help on this subject.
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

834. Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-26 20:55:34 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 834 Message: 834

If you are not using the ETO Digital Antenna Switch (DAS) with your 87A, you need read no further.

First, I really appreciate the help that Walter HB9ZS and Glenn AE0Q of RFConcepts provided.

The issue was that Alpha-CAT would shutdown power to DAS when it loads. I usually operate the K3 barefoot with DAS on but, I load the Alpha-CAT program in order to bring the amp on line if needed. If the amp was powered on, this did not occur.

Walter provided three different test versions of Alpha-CAT. The final version in conjunction with a command line sent to the 87A did the trick. The command line sent via Alpha-CAT is "ANTENNA = ON". That command is embedded in ALPHA-CAT now as evidenced in the diagnosis mode by the line "ANTENNA = 1".

Now, Alpha-CAT and Alpha Remote behave similarly regarding DAS.

Jim
K7EG

835. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-27 15:18:35 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 818 Message: 835

FYI....

One thing i found is that i can not reset the amp from a soft fault (like high SWR) by cycling the op/stby button. I can do that in Alpha Remote program.

D.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> To day I modified the program as follow:
>
> Layout arrangement of the push buttons
>
> Functions of the "Manual" - "Auto" Switch:
>
> If the "Tune" or "Load" will be manually changed by the "UP" "DOWN" pushbuttons of the program the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch to manual.
>
> If the transmitting frequency will be changed about 10 KHz the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch back to "Auto" and the Linear will be tuned according to the stored settings of the Alpha 87a.
>
> Also a change by the Band or Segment Pushbuttons of the program will have a change to "Auto"
>
> I have the beta test program as Zip File on:
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip
>
> Replace the existing exe file by the new file in the Alpha 87a CAT folder.
>
> Any comments are very appreciated
>
> Walter, HB9ZS
>

836. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-02-28 15:19:07 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 818 Message: 836

I will test this function as soon I have the next soft fault.

A new description with DX4Win setup.
Stand alone Setup with TRX and Omni Rig Interface.
N1MM logger etc.

http://qslnet.de/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> FYI....
>
> One thing i found is that i can not reset the amp from a soft fault (like high SWR) by cycling the op/stby button. I can do that in Alpha Remote program.
>
> D.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "hb9zs" <hb9zs@> wrote:
> >
> > To day I modified the program as follow:
> >
> > Layout arrangement of the push buttons
> >
> > Functions of the "Manual" - "Auto" Switch:
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> > If the "Tune" or "Load" will be manually changed by the "UP" "DOWN" pushbuttons of the program the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch to manual.
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> > If the transmitting frequency will be changed about 10 KHz the "Manual ☐ Auto" bush button will switch back to "Auto" and the Linear will be tuned according to the stored settings of the Alpha 87a.
> >
> > Also a change by the Band or Segment Pushbuttons of the program will have a change to "Auto"
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> > I have the beta test program as Zip File on:
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> > http://www.qslnet.de/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip
> >
> > Replace the existing exe file by the new file in the Alpha 87a CAT folder.
> >
> > Any comments are very appreciated
> >
> > Walter, HB9ZS

> >
>

837. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-01 13:24:38 UTC
From: W3GQ
Topic: 818 Message: 837

Walter,

Here is another little improvement that could be made to your already great program.

If I start the 87a using your program, there is no indication I can find that tells me the amplifier is in the 3 minute warmup cycle. Or am I missing something?

Thanks and 73,

Paul, W3GQ

838. Re: Alpha 87a_CAT "Beta Test" (Release 1.3.5) HB9ZS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-02 21:10:17 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 818 Message: 838

Paul

In the right lower corner there is a count down timer 3 Minutes back to 0. This timer starts when you turn on the amplifier with the program.

On my Web you will find the newest release 5.0.2 and a revised description with samples of setups of the program with different TRX, DX Lab, Ham Radio Deluxe, N1MM Logger, Omni Rig etc.

Visit

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "W3GQ" <sturpe@...> wrote:
>
> Walter,
>
> Here is another little improvement that could be made to your already great program.
>
> If I start the 87a using your program, there is no indication I can find that tells me the amplifier is in the 3 minute warmup cycle. Or am I missing something?
>
> Thanks and 73,
>
> Paul, W3GQ
>

839. Alpha CAT Beta Release V5.0.2

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 16:44:13 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 839 Message: 839

Nice Walter. I like your warmup countdown timer feature.

I use an Elecraft K3 with the 87A. I also have Microham Microkeyer and LP-Bridge (N8LP's splitter) in use to enable Commander, N1MM, and two SteppIR controllers to read the 38400 baud K3 data.

When Alpha CAT beta V5.0.1 was released, I downloaded OmniRig and tied it to another output leg on LP-Bridge splitter. That tied Alpha CAT into the mix. Now, if I click a spot in N1MM bandpass display or DXLab SpotCollector everything tracks including the 87A.

Jim K7EG

840. Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 16:50:50 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 834 Message: 840

Reminder - if you are using an ETO DAS with your 87A and are running Alpha CAT, be sure to send the "ANTENNA + ON" command to the 87A. You will only need to do that once. If another Alpha CAT release comes along, you may have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from V5.0.1 to V5.0.2

Jim
K7EG

841. Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 17:26:59 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 834 Message: 841

Error command is "ANTENNA = ON". Also, just observed this AM, with V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded. I did not have to re-enter that command before.

Walter, if possible, please burn "ANTENNA = ON" into Alpha CAT default command set. Thanks.

Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Reminder - if you are using an ETO DAS with your 87A and are running Alpha CAT, be sure to send the "ANTENNA + ON" command to the 87A. You will only need to do that once. If another Alpha CAT release comes along, you may have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from V5.0.1 to V5.0.2
>
> Jim
> K7EG
>

842. Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 20:44:40 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 834 Message: 842

The command "Antenna = ON" is not included in the Release 5.0.2.

Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Error command is "ANTENNA = ON". Also, just observed this AM, with V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded. I did not have to re-enter that command before.
>
> Walter, if possible, please burn "ANTENNA = ON" into Alpha CAT default command set. Thanks.
>
> Jim K7EG
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
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> >
> > Jim
> > K7EG
> >
>

843. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 20:50:57 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 834 Message: 843

Walter

OK I understand. Is it possible to include as a default command? Then, any station with DAS will be setup automatically. It should not harm any stations without DAS. Otherwise, it is necessary to send "ANTENNA = ON" every time you load Alpha CAT.

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of hb9zs
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 12:45 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

The command "Antenna = ON" is not included in the Release 5.0.2.

Walter

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
> Error command is "ANTENNA = ON". Also, just observed this AM, with V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded. I did not have to re-enter that command before.
>
> Walter, if possible, please burn "ANTENNA = ON" into Alpha CAT default command set. Thanks.
>
> Jim K7EG
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> >
> > Reminder - if you are using an ETO DAS with your 87A and are running Alpha CAT, be sure to send the "ANTENNA + ON" command to the 87A. You will only need to do that once. If another Alpha CAT release comes along, you may have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from V5.0.1 to V5.0.2
> >
> > Jim
> > K7EG
> >
>

844. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 21:30:26 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 834 Message: 844

The DAS responds to the commands

ANTENNA OFF (DAS power off)
ANTENNA ON (DAS power on)
or
ANTENNA X where X is the antenna number.

There is no = character needed.

Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Mar 3, 2011 at 1:44 PM, hb9zs <hb9zs@...> wrote:

> The command "Antenna = ON" is not included in the Release 5.0.2.
>
> Walter
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
> >
> > Error command is "ANTENNA = ON". Also, just observed this AM, with
> V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded.
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> > Walter, if possible, please burn "ANTENNA = ON" into Alpha CAT default
> command set. Thanks.
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> > Jim K7EG
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Reminder - if you are using an ETO DAS with your 87A and are running
> Alpha CAT, be sure to send the "ANTENNA + ON" command to the 87A. You will
> only need to do that once. If another Alpha CAT release comes along, you may
> have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from
> V5.0.1 to V5.0.2
> > >
> > > Jim
> > > K7EG
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

845. Re: Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-03 23:26:51 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 834 Message: 845

Hi Glenn

Thanks for clarification (ANTENNA ON). Somehow 87A responded OK to ANTENNA = ON but, I will use the correct command henceforth.

I am hoping that Walter will build this command into his program default set. Otherwise, I must enter that command every time I load Alpha CAT without powering up Amp. His older Version 1.3.5 was fixed.

If you start Alpha CAT and apply power to 87A, DAS powers on & remains ON. It is just when you load program and do not turn amp on that the command is needed. That is my typical startup: K3 on and DAS on but amp off.

This is a minor problem - just a matter of convenience.

73

Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> The DAS responds to the commands
>
> ANTENNA OFF (DAS power off)
> ANTENNA ON (DAS power on)
> or
> ANTENNA X where X is the antenna number.
>
> There is no = character needed.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Thu, Mar 3, 2011 at 1:44 PM, hb9zs <hb9zs@...> wrote:
>
> > The command "Antenna = ON" is not included in the Release 5.0.2.
> >
> > Walter
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Error command is "ANTENNA = ON". Also, just observed this AM, with
> > V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded.
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> > command set. Thanks.

> > >
> > > Jim K7EG
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> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > Reminder - if you are using an ETO DAS with your 87A and are running
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> > have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from
> > V5.0.1 to V5.0.2
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> >
>
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>
> AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
>

846. Alpha CAT & 87A/DAS Combo

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-04 09:21:02 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 834 Message: 846

Alpha 87a CAT program is updated (Release5.0.3)

The DAS Combo will power on as soon as the Alpha 87a CAT program will be started.
The updated programs are on

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

Walter, HB9ZS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hi Glenn
>
> Thanks for clarification (ANTENNA ON). Somehow 87A responded OK to ANTENNA = ON but, I will use the correct command henceforth.
>
> I am hoping that Walter will build this command into his program default set. Otherwise, I must enter that command every time I load Alpha CAT without powering up Amp. His older Version 1.3.5 was fixed.
>
> If you start Alpha CAT and apply power to 87A, DAS powers on & remains ON. It is just when you load program and do not turn amp on that the command is needed. That is my typical startup: K3 on and DAS on but amp off.
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> This is a minor problem - just a matter of convenience.
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> 73
>
> Jim K7EG
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> > ANTENNA OFF (DAS power off)
> > ANTENNA ON (DAS power on)
> > or
> > ANTENNA X where X is the antenna number.
> >
> > There is no = character needed.
> >
> > Glenn AE0Q
> >
> >
> > On Thu, Mar 3, 2011 at 1:44 PM, hb9zs <hb9zs@> wrote:

> >
> > > The command "Antenna = ON" is not included in the Release 5.0.2.
> > >
> > > Walter
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
> > > >
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> > > V5.0.2, I had to re-enter that command this AM when Alpha CAT 5.0.2 loaded.
> > > I did not have to re-enter that command before.
> > > >
> > > > Walter, if possible, please burn "ANTENNA = ON" into Alpha CAT default
> > > command set. Thanks.
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> > > > Jim K7EG
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k7eg" <57JNDenneny@> wrote:
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> > > only need to do that once. If another Alpha CAT release comes along, you may
> > > have to re-enter that command. I had to do that again when I updated from
> > > V5.0.1 to V5.0.2
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> > > > > Jim
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> > >
> >
> > --
> > "Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green
> >
> > AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
> > ae0q@ --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
> > http://www.radiotipsandtales.com
> >
>

847. Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-08 13:44:06 UTC
From: D.
Topic: 847 Message: 847

Is there a way to keep the amp in auto mode (alpha max). It appears that I have to enable that mode every time I fire up the amp.

Thanks,
D.

848. Soft Fault 33

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-10 03:59:04 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 848 Message: 848

Hi all,

My 87A is softfaulting 33, which I understand is due to a lack or movement of the tuning capacitor. I have not taken the lid off yet...could this be as simple as blowing out the dust and lubricating the shaft...or am I in trouble (having seen the photos of how to remove/replace the tuning capacitors)

849. Re: Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-10 04:00:49 UTC
From: Christopher Platt
Topic: 847 Message: 849

I have the same issue in my remote station. Not sure if the indicator is correct though as when ever I turn the 87A on in person it seems to be in automode as a default.

vk5cp

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@...> wrote:
>
> Is there a way to keep the amp in auto mode (alpha max). It appears that I have to enable that mode every time I fire up the amp.
>
> Thanks,
> D.
>

850. Re: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 33

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 01:08:11 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 848 Message: 850

Did it suffer any physical damage?

Try to unscrew the screw which hold the band switch. It is under the amp.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/3/10 Christopher Platt <vk5cp@...>

>
>
> Hi all,
>
> My 87A is softfaulting 33, which I understand is due to a lack or movement
> of the tuning capacitor. I have not taken the lid off yet...could this be as
> simple as blowing out the dust and lubricating the shaft...or am I in
> trouble (having seen the photos of how to remove/replace the tuning
> capacitors)
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

851. Re: Soft Fault 33

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 06:43:39 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 848 Message: 851

Probably not a disconnected shaft like you saw in the pictures. I believe the amp is complaining because it's not seeing the optical encoder move. That would imply a bad motor or a jammed cap. I think it's more likely the latter. I've had that problem once or twice, but it was intermitent. I kept restarting the amp until it came up normally, the exercised the caps from one end of their travel to the other, over and over. That fixed the problem. I think someone at Alpha told me to do that.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Christopher Platt" <vk5cp@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> My 87A is softfaulting 33, which I understand is due to a lack or movement of the tuning capacitor. I have not taken the lid off yet...could this be as simple as blowing out the dust and lubricating the shaft...or am I in trouble (having seen the photos of how to remove/replace the tuning capacitors)
>

852. Re: Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 06:48:08 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 847 Message: 852

I've seen this problem. Sometimes the amp comes up with Auto on, and sometimes it doesn't. I've never been able to figure out what causes it to forget that it was running in Auto mode the last time. I always use AlphaRemote, and have thought maybe it was a random bug in the software. Not a huge deal. It's usually very obvious when Auto is off. I haven't pre-tuned the amp in ages, so with most antennas I can't get full power out unless Auto is on.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Christopher Platt" <vk5cp@...> wrote:
>
> I have the same issue in my remote station. Not sure if the indicator is correct though as when ever I turn the 87A on in person it seems to be in automode as a default.
>
> vk5cp
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "D." <wg5j@> wrote:
> >
> > Is there a way to keep the amp in auto mode (alpha max). It appears that I have to enable that mode every time I fire up the amp.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > D.
> >
>

853. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 12:27:09 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 847 Message: 853

> "I've seen this problem. Sometimes the amp comes up with Auto on, and sometimes it doesn't. I've never been able to figure out what causes it to forget that it was running in Auto mode the last time."

If AC power is removed from the 87A it will go back to manual as a default. As long as the amp is plugged in to a live socket, Auto will stay engaged at start-up. At least, that's how mine behaves.

Paul, W9AC

854. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 12:33:47 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 847 Message: 854

Maybe not so obvious, but I should have also stated that a brief power outage will also do the same.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Paul Christensen
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 7:27 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Remote - Auto Mode

> "I've seen this problem. Sometimes the amp comes up with Auto on, and sometimes it doesn't. I've never been able to figure out what causes it to forget that it was running in Auto mode the last time."

If AC power is removed from the 87A it will go back to manual as a default. As long as the amp is plugged in to a live socket, Auto will stay engaged at start-up. At least, that's how mine behaves.

Paul, W9AC

855. 3CX800A7 Tube Life Real World usage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 18:42:11 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 855 Message: 855

I have a set of tubes in the 87A with 100 hours,also a backup set with 1000 hours. I am thinking of buying a new set but like to know what average tube life is. I would like to know what you have experienced in real world usage. Opinions very from buy the new set to the tubes you have will last 10-12 years or more with average use. My 87A needs 42 watts for legal limit SSB peak grid is around 35. Thanks in advance for any help on this.

856. Re: 3CX800A7 Tube Life Real World usage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 20:01:39 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 855 Message: 856

My 87A was built in mid-90's. Tubes are original. They have lots of hours on them (including contesting) and still seem like new. Save your money.

Jim K7EG

858. Re: 3CX800A7 Tube Life Real World usage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-11 23:42:52 UTC
From: Nick Cropper
Topic: 855 Message: 858

My 87A will be twenty years old this year and the tubes are in good shape. Had the amp back to Alpha last year for a minor repair / upgrades and everything checked out good. Most of my operating is CW DXing and casual contesting.

Nick K5LC

859. Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-12 15:09:58 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 859 Message: 859

On my good Alpha 87a (the other has been getting Fault 11 intermittently), this morning while listenint on 18Mhz, my 87a went into Fault 29 (Attempt to transmit on invalid frequency, such as above 24 MHz without unlocking 24-30 MHz coverage) spontaneously. This is on RX not TX and it has happened twice in the past 60 mins. I have been moving around the bands making brief contacts but both times while on RX for a while. I dont have my xcvr VOX on and no other rigs going.

I searched the Group past posts and could not find anything on this fault.

Any suggestions appreciated.

I did recently upgrade to the latest version 1.3.5 of HB9ZS's control software and the amp now does band changes when my xcvr changes bands but the fault 29 comes during long RX periods not TX or band chages.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

860. Re: 3CX800A7 Tube Life Real World usage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-12 17:46:15 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 855 Message: 860

My 87A was built in 1995 and the original tubes are still going strong (knock on wood.) The amp is used by my primary run radio for SO2R contesting. I'd say it's made over 100,000 QSOs and probably well over a million CQs.

Since you already have a backup set of tubes, I wouldn't bother with buying another set. A brand-new set of matched tubes will set you back about $2000.

73, Dick WC1M

861. Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-13 14:02:35 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 859 Message: 861

Your connection between the amp and the computer should be rf proof. Put some ferrites at the ends. While your program is not changing the bands, some strays are causing confusion entering via the cable to the amp. Another issue that happens when you do the setup like yours below is when you change bands rapidly on your radio, your alpha does the same due to it following the program. The amp sometimes doesnt like this rapid change or band switching couple of times in a few secs. I fixed my issue simliar to yours by putting in a handful of DXE ferrites on the cable. Now, one other scanario has been where the amp gets gibberish band charcs from the computer while you are listening. Remember, you computer program is constantly polling the TXCVR from the freq and sometimes, when it burps, the same is passed on the amp and hence the amp throws a fault too. If you disconnected the cable in the back, you will notice, that all of the above went away.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> On my good Alpha 87a (the other has been getting Fault 11 intermittently), this morning while listenint on 18Mhz, my 87a went into Fault 29 (Attempt to transmit on invalid frequency, such as above 24 MHz without unlocking 24-30 MHz coverage) spontaneously. This is on RX not TX and it has happened twice in the past 60 mins. I have been moving around the bands making brief contacts but both times while on RX for a while. I dont have my xcvr VOX on and no other rigs going.
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> I searched the Group past posts and could not find anything on this fault.
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> Any suggestions appreciated.
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> I did recently upgrade to the latest version 1.3.5 of HB9ZS's control software and the amp now does band changes when my xcvr changes bands but the fault 29 comes during long RX periods not TX or band chages.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>

862. Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-13 14:29:59 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 859 Message: 862

Thank you for the detailed reply. Makes perfect sense and I will implement. I also thought it may be because I cchanged HB9ZS's CAT program from direct control to DXLab Commander. Before I would just click the mic for the 87a to change bands on TX only, now it tracks on the RX changes as well.

73 jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ken_800" <ken_800@...> wrote:
>
> Your connection between the amp and the computer should be rf proof. Put some ferrites at the ends. While your program is not changing the bands, some strays are causing confusion entering via the cable to the amp. Another issue that happens when you do the setup like yours below is when you change bands rapidly on your radio, your alpha does the same due to it following the program. The amp sometimes doesnt like this rapid change or band switching couple of times in a few secs. I fixed my issue simliar to yours by putting in a handful of DXE ferrites on the cable. Now, one other scanario has been where the amp gets gibberish band charcs from the computer while you are listening. Remember, you computer program is constantly polling the TXCVR from the freq and sometimes, when it burps, the same is passed on the amp and hence the amp throws a fault too. If you disconnected the cable in the back, you will notice, that all of the above went away.
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@> wrote:
> >
> > On my good Alpha 87a (the other has been getting Fault 11 intermittently), this morning while listenint on 18Mhz, my 87a went into Fault 29 (Attempt to transmit on invalid frequency, such as above 24 MHz without unlocking 24-30 MHz coverage) spontaneously. This is on RX not TX and it has happened twice in the past 60 mins. I have been moving around the bands making brief contacts but both times while on RX for a while. I dont have my xcvr VOX on and no other rigs going.
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> >
> > 73 Jerry
> > K1JOS
> >
>

863. Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-13 14:47:57 UTC
From: ken_800
Topic: 859 Message: 863

Jerry,
The DXLab commander is constantly polling your transceiver and any hiccups in it will be directly sent to the amp. This has happened to me before.

Regards,
Ken

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> Thank you for the detailed reply. Makes perfect sense and I will implement. I also thought it may be because I cchanged HB9ZS's CAT program from direct control to DXLab Commander. Before I would just click the mic for the 87a to change bands on TX only, now it tracks on the RX changes as well.
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> K1JOS
>
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> > >
> > > 73 Jerry
> > > K1JOS
> > >
> >
>

864. Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-13 19:25:33 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 859 Message: 864

Hi Jerry,

The fault you're getting is very suspicious and doesn't make sense. Far be it from me to cast stones at a piece of software with which I am not familiar, but it's quite possible that invalid communications commands, or problems related to communications timing, are confusing the 87A's CPU. My advice is to turn off the amp, unplug it for a while to make sure the CPU is reset, then operate for a while without the HB9ZS software and see if you get the faults. If not, then it's likely the faults are being driven by the software, and are bogus.

FWIW, the 87A communications interface was designed about 20 years ago and probably isn't great for a software author to work with. I'm sure it was never intended to work with something like HB9ZS's software. Believe me, I've had a lot of trouble working with the Acom 2000A communications interface, though I have to admit that its design is absolutely abysmal by comparison with the 87A.

What I do know is that when you have AutoTune on, AlphaMax sends a continuous stream of data out the RS-232 port, and it's possible that the HB9ZS software's commands are colliding with this data or bouncing off an otherwise busy CPU. The 87A's I/O handling is rather primitive, relying on a polling loop rather than being interrupt-driven. It's quite possible that it's losing some of the commands being sent by the HB9ZS software, and that's putting it in a strange state. Or, it's possible that the CPU is getting overwhelmed by commands being sent by the HB9ZS software and is somehow misinterpreting sensor data when that happens.

Incidentally, the polling loop explains why, sometimes, fault codes do not exactly match the problem that drove them. For example, it used to be that excessive drive power would cause fault 17, which has to do with gain being out of spec. Yeah, the gain is out of spec, but the actual cause doesn't get reported. This one might be fixed in the AlphaMax release, but I know of other cases where the faults reported by the AlphaMax firmware are misleading. What's happening is that the 87A checks the sensors in a big loop, and since some faults can cause multiple sensors to be out of range, the fault code you get depends on the order in which sensors are checked. That can be very misleading.

My point is that the fault code reporting is imperfect and the communications interface is primitive. That probably adds up to problems dealing with a program like HB9ZS's.

With all due respect to the author, I tried an earlier version of the software and found it to be too buggy for use in my station. It did wierd things and never worked correctly. Frankly, I see no reason to use it. While "pre-tuning" the Acom 2000A is a necessity to avoid losing part of your transmission when changing bands (I've written software to do that), it's not technically necessary with the 87A. The 2000A shunts the transceiver drive to a dummy load during tuning, which is why part of it gets lost. But the 87A's fast PIN diodes allow the transceiver's signal to be sent to the antenna during tuning. Yes, power is lower, but nothing is lost. I've never found pre-tuning to be necessary.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> On my good Alpha 87a (the other has been getting Fault 11 intermittently), this morning while listenint on 18Mhz, my 87a went into Fault 29 (Attempt to transmit on invalid frequency, such as above 24 MHz without unlocking 24-30 MHz coverage) spontaneously. This is on RX not TX and it has happened twice in the past 60 mins. I have been moving around the bands making brief contacts but both times while on RX for a while. I dont have my xcvr VOX on and no other rigs going.
>
> I searched the Group past posts and could not find anything on this fault.
>
> Any suggestions appreciated.
>
> I did recently upgrade to the latest version 1.3.5 of HB9ZS's control software and the amp now does band changes when my xcvr changes bands but the fault 29 comes during long RX periods not TX or band chages.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>

865. Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-13 23:52:27 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 859 Message: 865

I have not experienced any communication issues between my 87A and either Alpha Remote or Walter's Alpha CAT programs.

I have used both the Alpha CAT V1.3.5 and the Alpha CAT/N1MM compatible V5.0.2 programs without issues. Alpha CAT V5.0.2 is part of my regular startup routine launched by DXlab Suites. It is a great aid.

I would be suspicious of RFI on the control lines. The ferrite bead approach on all control lines would be a logical first step IMHO.

Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Jerry,
>
> The fault you're getting is very suspicious and doesn't make sense. Far be it from me to cast stones at a piece of software with which I am not familiar, but it's quite possible that invalid communications commands, or problems related to communications timing, are confusing the 87A's CPU. My advice is to turn off the amp, unplug it for a while to make sure the CPU is reset, then operate for a while without the HB9ZS software and see if you get the faults. If not, then it's likely the faults are being driven by the software, and are bogus.
>
> FWIW, the 87A communications interface was designed about 20 years ago and probably isn't great for a software author to work with. I'm sure it was never intended to work with something like HB9ZS's software. Believe me, I've had a lot of trouble working with the Acom 2000A communications interface, though I have to admit that its design is absolutely abysmal by comparison with the 87A.
>
> What I do know is that when you have AutoTune on, AlphaMax sends a continuous stream of data out the RS-232 port, and it's possible that the HB9ZS software's commands are colliding with this data or bouncing off an otherwise busy CPU. The 87A's I/O handling is rather primitive, relying on a polling loop rather than being interrupt-driven. It's quite possible that it's losing some of the commands being sent by the HB9ZS software, and that's putting it in a strange state. Or, it's possible that the CPU is getting overwhelmed by commands being sent by the HB9ZS software and is somehow misinterpreting sensor data when that happens.
>
> Incidentally, the polling loop explains why, sometimes, fault codes do not exactly match the problem that drove them. For example, it used to be that excessive drive power would cause fault 17, which has to do with gain being out of spec. Yeah, the gain is out of spec, but the actual cause doesn't get reported. This one might be fixed in the AlphaMax release, but I know of other cases where the faults reported by the AlphaMax firmware are misleading. What's happening is that the 87A checks the sensors in a big loop, and since some faults can cause multiple sensors to be out of range, the fault code you get depends

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>
> My point is that the fault code reporting is imperfect and the communications interface is primitive. That probably adds up to problems dealing with a program like HB9ZS's.
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> With all due respect to the author, I tried an earlier version of the software and found it to be too buggy for use in my station. It did wierd things and never worked correctly. Frankly, I see no reason to use it. While "pre-tuning" the Acom 2000A is a necessity to avoid losing part of your transmission when changing bands (I've written software to do that), it's not technically necessary with the 87A. The 2000A shunts the transceiver drive to a dummy load during tuning, which is why part of it gets lost. But the 87A's fast PIN diodes allow the transceiver's signal to be sent to the antenna during tuning. Yes, power is lower, but nothing is lost. I've never found pre-tuning to be necessary.
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> 73, Dick WC1M
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@> wrote:
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> >
> > 73 Jerry
> > K1JOS
> >
>

866. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 29 ???

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-14 00:55:29 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 859 Message: 866

As a beta tester for Walter's program, I've never experienced ANY
problem with it. The Alpha 87a works absolutely wonderfully, and
Walter's program gives me exactly the control I want. Well done!

73

Joe
WD?M

On 3/13/2011 5:52 PM, k7eg wrote:
>
> I have not experienced any communication issues between my 87A and
> either Alpha Remote or Walter's Alpha CAT programs.
>
> I have used both the Alpha CAT V1.3.5 and the Alpha CAT/N1MM
> compatible V5.0.2 programs without issues. Alpha CAT V5.0.2 is part of
> my regular startup routine launched by DXlab Suites. It is a great aid.
>
> I would be suspicious of RFI on the control lines. The ferrite bead
> approach on all control lines would be a logical first step IMHO.
>
> Jim K7EG
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Jerry,
> >
> > The fault you're getting is very suspicious and doesn't make sense.
> Far be it from me to cast stones at a piece of software with which I
> am not familiar, but it's quite possible that invalid communications
> commands, or problems related to communications timing, are confusing
> the 87A's CPU. My advice is to turn off the amp, unplug it for a while
> to make sure the CPU is reset, then operate for a while without the
> HB9ZS software and see if you get the faults. If not, then it's likely
> the faults are being driven by the software, and are bogus.
> >
> > FWIW, the 87A communications interface was designed about 20 years
> ago and probably isn't great for a software author to work with. I'm
> sure it was never intended to work with something like HB9ZS's
> software. Believe me, I've had a lot of trouble working with the Acom
> 2000A communications interface, though I have to admit that its design
> is absolutely abysmal by comparison with the 87A.
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> the HB9ZS software's commands are colliding with this data or bouncing
> off an otherwise busy CPU. The 87A's I/O handling is rather primitive,
> relying on a polling loop rather than being interrupt-driven. It's
> quite possible that it's losing some of the commands being sent by the
> HB9ZS software, and that's putting it in a strange state. Or, it's
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> the HB9ZS software and is somehow misinterpreting sensor data when
> that happens.
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> with gain being out of spec. Yeah, the gain is out of spec, but the
> actual cause doesn't get reported. This one might be fixed in the
> AlphaMax release, but I know of other cases where the faults reported
> by the AlphaMax firmware are misleading. What's happening is that the
> 87A checks the sensors in a big loop, and since some faults can cause
> multiple sensors to be out of range, the fault code you get depends on
> the order in which sensors are checked. That can be very misleading.
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> > My point is that the fault code reporting is imperfect and the
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> problems dealing with a program like HB9ZS's.
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> the software and found it to be too buggy for use in my station. It
> did wierd things and never worked correctly. Frankly, I see no reason
> to use it. While "pre-tuning" the Acom 2000A is a necessity to avoid
> losing part of your transmission when changing bands (I've written
> software to do that), it's not technically necessary with the 87A. The
> 2000A shunts the transceiver drive to a dummy load during tuning,
> which is why part of it gets lost. But the 87A's fast PIN diodes allow
> the transceiver's signal to be sent to the antenna during tuning. Yes,
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> necessary.
> >
> > 73, Dick WC1M
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> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
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> > >
> > > On my good Alpha 87a (the other has been getting Fault 11
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> > > I searched the Group past posts and could not find anything on

> this fault.
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> > > I did recently upgrade to the latest version 1.3.5 of HB9ZS's
> control software and the amp now does band changes when my xcvr
> changes bands but the fault 29 comes during long RX periods not TX or
> band chages.
> > >
> > > 73 Jerry
> > > K1JOS
> > >
> >
>
>

867. Re: [Alpha87a] Need Band Data Cable for FT-1000MP

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-14 14:02:51 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 867 Message: 867

Hi,

you can not connect the 87a to the radio directly via rs232, but only via PC. You can build the rs232 cable, see the manual.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/3/12 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>

>
>
> Anyone have one of these for sale? Rick VE9HF
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

868. de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-15 16:21:01 UTC
From: Tord Julander
Topic: 868 Message: 868

Hi,

I'm in an urgent need of at least 1 or even better 2 pcs of the Tx pin diodes for my 87A.
The ones marked*MA4P4006D *in the schematic.
I have them on order from RF Concepts LLC but they are out of stock at the present time.
Being unable to get a response when they expect having them back in stock again

Now I'm kindly asking this group of Alpha 87a users if there is any one out there who can helo help?
Maybe you're keeping them as a sparepart and *willing to sell or loan them *to me?
As soon as I get my delivery I will forward the new ones back to you.
Please look thru your spareparts.

Best 73's de Tord - SM3EVR

869. Re: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-15 17:30:30 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 868 Message: 869

This is a m/a com part... checking rell.com (richardson electronics), they don't have these in stock. Perhaps a distributor of m/a com near you does. Richardson does have 629 of

MA4P7006F-1072
which MIGHT work in this application (lower capacitance... slightly higher resistance (.9 vs. .5 ohm); check out
http://www.macomtech.com/datasheets/PIN%20HiPax_Series.pdf

From: Tord Julander <tord.julander@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tue, March 15, 2011 9:21:01 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Hi,

I'm in an urgent need of at least 1 or even better 2 pcs of the Tx pin diodes for my 87A.
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Please look thru your spareparts.

Best 73's de Tord - SM3EVR

870. Re: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-15 18:20:45 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 868 Message: 870

For Pin Diodes try www.crosscomponents.com . They specialize in hard to find & discontinued components and they will ship worldwide.
Good Luck,
Jim
K5WLQ

From: Tord Julander <tord.julander@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tue, March 15, 2011 11:21:01 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

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The ones markedMA4P4006D in the schematic.
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As soon as I get my delivery I will forward the new ones back to you.
Please look thru your spareparts.

Best 73's de Tord - SM3EVR

871. Re: Need Band Data Cable for FT-1000MP

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-15 23:10:04 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 867 Message: 871

Yes, I got ahead of myself. VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> you can not connect the 87a to the radio directly via rs232, but only via
> PC. You can build the rs232 cable, see the manual.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/3/12 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
>
> >
> >
> > Anyone have one of these for sale? Rick VE9HF
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

872. Re: de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-16 11:41:20 UTC
From: dodgy_dxer
Topic: 868 Message: 872

Hi Tord

RF Concepts have them on the web page

$125

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts?range=11%2C20%2C33

73 Fred
A65BD

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tord Julander <tord.julander@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I'm in an urgent need of at least 1 or even better 2 pcs of the Tx pin
> diodes for my 87A.
> The ones marked*MA4P4006D *in the schematic.
> I have them on order from RF Concepts LLC but they are out of stock at
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> Please look thru your spareparts.
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> Best 73's de Tord - SM3EVR
>

873. Re: de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-16 15:08:26 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 868 Message: 873

I don't think the "F" package style will work. The "D" package used in the 87A has a threaded mounting stud that passes through the rear panel and is secured there with a small nut. Presumably, the stud acts as a heatsink.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Brian Moran <brianmo@...> wrote:
>
>
> This is a m/a com part... checking rell.com (richardson electronics), they don't
> have these in stock. Perhaps a distributor of m/a com near you does. Richardson
> does have 629 of
>
> MA4P7006F-1072
> which MIGHT work in this application (lower capacitance... slightly higher
> resistance (.9 vs. .5 ohm); check out
> http://www.macomtech.com/datasheets/PIN%20HiPax_Series.pdf
>
>
>
>
>
>
> _____
> From: Tord Julander <tord.julander@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Tue, March 15, 2011 9:21:01 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Urgent need of 87a tx pin diode
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> Hi,
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874. Fault 17 on 10 Metres

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-26 11:51:19 UTC
From: g3sem
Topic: 874 Message: 874

Ever time I try to use my 87A on 10 meters I get a soft fault 17 indication.
I'm using a 5kw dummy load so no problems with the antenna.
Drive has been reduced down to 5 watts and I still get a problem .

Any ideas folks?

875. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 on 10 Metres

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-26 19:12:12 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 874 Message: 875

Hi,

maybe the input or output wattmeter is damaged. See the "files" directory in this group, there is a fault17.txt file where Glen described how to work on fault 17.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/3/26 g3sem <G3SEM@...>

>
>
> Ever time I try to use my 87A on 10 meters I get a soft fault 17
> indication.
> I'm using a 5kw dummy load so no problems with the antenna.
> Drive has been reduced down to 5 watts and I still get a problem .
>
> Any ideas folks?
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

876. 10 metre fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-27 13:32:19 UTC
From: g3sem
Topic: 876 Message: 876

Thanks to Jim N7US who sent me details of a bandswitch fault patch
ex Southern Calafornia DX club news letter I was able to fix the problem with in 20 mins.

My grateful thanks to all.

73 Paul G3SEM

877. RE: [Alpha87a] 10 metre fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-27 14:42:05 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 876 Message: 877

I just uploaded the August 2003 SCDXC newsletter that contains the article by K6FG on adjusting the bandswitch alignment using a terminal program to fix Fault 17. Go to the first link at the bottom of this email and then select the files. You'll need to refresh your memory on counting in hex. If you want to use a computer program, the Windows calculator will do that for you.

You can use a terminal program or, better in my opinion, is using HB9ZS's 87A control program. One of the features of Walter's program is the inclusion of a terminal program as well as diagnosing faults. It's on his web site at http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/ .

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Thanks to Jim N7US who sent me details of a bandswitch fault patch ex Southern California DX club news letter I was able to fix the problem with in 20 mins.

My grateful thanks to all.

73 Paul G3SEM

878. Re: Fault 17 on 10 Metres

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-27 17:37:35 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 874 Message: 878

Fault 17 reports a gain problem: either the output is higher or lower than it should be for the level of drive power. Unfortunately, there can be many causes of a gain mismatch, and the 87A doesn't do a very good job narrowing down what's causing your problem. For example, a power spike from the transceiver can cause a fault 17 because the 87A checks for the gain mismatch before it checks for the drive being too high (at least, it used to do that before AlphaMax.) High SWR somewhere in the input or output network can cause a fault 17, too.

The good news is that your fault 17 is happening on only one band. That makes it very likely that the problem is either in the input network, the output network, or the input or output wafers of the band switch. Further, since the input and output networks on 10m are pretty simple and not very likely to fail, the chances are that it's a problem with the input or output bands switch wafer.

The output wafer is in the main RF compartment. The contacts are quite beefy, so it's unlikely that they're broken. However, they could be dirty or pitted from arcing (again, not real likely because the amp is designed to fault before that kind of damage occurs.) Nonetheless, check the contacts to make sure they're clean and not pitted.

It's much more likely that the input band switch wafer has a bad 10m contact. The input band switch wafer is fairly flimsy by comparison to the output wafer. I had the same problem as you, fault 17 on 10m, and it turned out the 10m position on the input band switch wafer was bad. The input band switch is located in the small compartment underneath the amp, accessible through a small panel. I tried cleaning the contacts, repositioning them, etc., but they just wouldn't make good contact no matter what I tried. I was able to purchase a replacement wafer for $75 (maybe it was the whole switch, I don't remember.) It wasn't terribly difficult to replace, though it wasn't trivial and I had to do some thinking to figure out how to do it.

I determined the source of my problem using a rather tricky and potentially risky procedure, described below. Since that time, I realized that there's probably a much better way to determine if the problem is with one of the band switch wafers: jumper the input and output. To do this, set the amp to 10m and put a jumper between the input connection to the input band switch wafer and the output to the 10m portion of the input network. The only tricky part of that is making sure that you have the right lead going from the band switch wafer to the 10m portion of the input network.

If jumpering the switch eliminates the fault, the wafer is bad. If not, it could be the 10m path through the input network. Check for a damaged inductor on the input network board.

The way I determined the cause was to set the amp to 12m and transmit on 10m. My amp was working fine on 12m, and it turns out that 10m and 12m both use the same part of the output network, and use similar small inductors in the input network. I figured that the input network inductor for 12m would probably work on 10m, at least well enough to reveal if the problem was with the 10m inductor. What I did was tell the amp to use the 12m band switch position. When I then transmitted on 10m, the amp did not fault. This meant that the problem had to be either in the input band switch or the output band switch (i.e., not the

output network.) I believe after that I did some testing with an ohmmeter and found that the input band switch wasn't making good contact in the 10m position (I might have bypassed the switch in order to determine that -- I don't remember.)

Now, the trick to all this was fooling the amp into using the 12m position while transmitting on 10m. Normally, the amp will automatically set the band switch based on the input drive frequency. This feature can't be turned off. What I did was patch the firmware to use the 12m band switch positioning numbers for 10m. When an 87A is built, the factory programs numbers for each band that represent the where to position the band switch for that band. Sometimes the band switch is slightly out of register on a band, and you get somewhat high input SWR. I had that problem early on with my amp on 15m, and the factory told me how to adjust the band switch position numbers to center the pads and wipers on 15m. When troubleshooting my fault 17 problem, I used that procedure to patch the 12m band switch position number into the firmware address for 10m. As I recall, I did the test in reverse, too, so I could trasmit on 12m while the bands switches were in the 10m position. The amp faulted, of course.

As I'm sure many of you realize, patching the firmware is risky business. You can really screw up the amp if you patch the wrong location, and you'll be in trouble if you don't record the original band switch position numbers or make a mistake when patching them. Extreme case is required, so it shouldn't be done unless you know what you're doing.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
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> Hi,
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> maybe the input or output wattmeter is damaged. See the "files" directory in
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> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/3/26 g3sem <G3SEM@...>
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> >
> >
> > Ever time I try to use my 87A on 10 meters I get a soft fault 17
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> > Any ideas folks?
> >
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> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X

>

879. Re: 10 metre fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-28 16:00:32 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 876 Message: 879

So much for my lengthy response! But at least I was on the right track with the band switch. Back when I had alignment problems on 15m, I don't recall the amp getting fault 17. The symptom was high input SWR, as reported by the meter in the transceiver. That resulted in problems driving the 87A to full power because of the transceiver's fold-back protection. Your band switch must have been very out of alignment (like, maybe the wipers and pads not making contact at all) to generate a fault 17.

Note that the procedure you used to patch the firmware is the same one I used to fool the amp into thinking it was on 10m when it was really on 12m.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "g3sem" <G3SEM@...> wrote:
>
> Thanks to Jim N7US who sent me details of a bandswitch fault patch
> ex Southern Calafornia DX club news letter I was able to fix the problem with in 20 mins.
>
> My grateful thanks to all.
>
> 73 Paul G3SEM
>

880. Alpha 87a "home video"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-29 22:53:07 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 880 Message: 880
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

```
Hello Group!

Does anyone know where to find or have the video, where W4ETO demonstrates
the Alpha 87a? See the attached *.jpg.

73s,
--
Tadej Arcon, S52X
```

881. Re: Alpha 87a "home video"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-03-31 01:14:38 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 880 Message: 881

Have you asked RF Concepts if they have a copy they can send you?

I have an original copy from Alpha in my basement. Don't know the condition -- it hasn't been played in over 15 years. If it's in good condition, I can digitize it, but I'm not comfortable with distributing copies. It's a copyrighted work of Alpha, which was bought by AlphaPower, which was bought by RF Concepts, etc. I have no idea how they might feel about the video getting out all over the Internet where prospective customers for their new amps could view the founder of a predecessor company demonstrating a discontinued product. If you can get Molly to send me an email OKing distribution, I'll do it (though I suspect the digitized video file could be quite large.)

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Group!
>
> Does anyone know where to find or have the video, where W4ETO demonstrates
> the Alpha 87a? See the attached *.jpg.
>
> 73s,
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

882. DX Engineering Antenna Switches and DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-02 12:17:00 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 882 Message: 882

Does anyone happen to know if I can use a DX Engineering RR8-HP
with my DAS? One of the files in the files section refers to 3 or 4 different remote boxes that are known to work and indicates there may be others. I happen to already have a RR8-HP here. VE9HF

883. Re: [Alpha87a] DX Engineering Antenna Switches and DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-02 14:37:56 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 882 Message: 883

Hi,

most of the antenna controllers use the same logic, this is positive logic (applying + Vcc) or negative logic (applying GND). The RR8-HP looks to use positive logic, so apply +12V to the desired relay. The DAS is compatible for doing that, there should be a jumper or something to select that.

When you will build a cable, add any ferrite core, just to help prevent any possible RFI.

I have uploaded all the documentation about DAS I found in the file directory of this group.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/4/2 ve9hf <ve9hf@rac.ca>

>
>
> Does anyone happen to know if I can use a DX Engineering RR8-HP
> with my DAS? One of the files in the files section refers to 3 or 4
> different remote boxes that are known to work and indicates there may be
> others. I happen to already have a RR8-HP here. VE9HF
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

884. Power output experiences

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-02 16:51:06 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 884 Message: 884

I have a 87a and the tubes are fairly new but wonder as to its output. I applied 30 watts drive and dead keyed and got 1521 watts out. I used a LP100A to measure into a dummy load. I have seen tests that show much less output from 30watts drive. I was wondering what you have experienced with similar drives. Thanks in advance for any help on this.

885. Re: [Alpha87a] Power output experiences

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-02 17:21:34 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 884 Message: 885

Normal.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: AlTC
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 12:51 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Power output experiences

I have a 87a and the tubes are fairly new but wonder as to its output. I applied 30 watts drive and dead keyed and got 1521 watts out. I used a LP100A to measure into a dummy load. I have seen tests that show much less output from 30watts drive. I was wondering what you have experienced with similar drives. Thanks in advance for any help on this.

886. Re: DX Engineering Antenna Switches and DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-03 11:50:13 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 882 Message: 886

Thanks Tadej. I was hoping it would work. Great idea about the ferrites. My antennas are about 50 to 75 meters from my house, but I will defintitely add ferrites anyway. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> most of the antenna controllers use the same logic, this is positive logic
> (applying + Vcc) or negative logic (applying GND). The RR8-HP looks to use
> positive logic, so apply +12V to the desired relay. The DAS is compatible
> for doing that, there should be a jumper or something to select that.
>
> When you will build a cable, add any ferrite core, just to help prevent any
> possible RFI.
>
> I have uploaded all the documentation about DAS I found in the file
> directory of this group.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/4/2 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
>
> >
> >
> > Does anyone happen to know if I can use a DX Engineering RR8-HP
> > with my DAS? One of the files in the files section refers to 3 or 4
> > different remote boxes that are known to work and indicates there may be
> > others. I happen to already have a RR8-HP here. VE9HF
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

887. 3CPX800A7s in 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-06 20:15:52 UTC
From: Paula
Topic: 887 Message: 887

Hello all--

If anyone has used Eimac 3CPX800A7 tubes in place of the 3CX800A7s in an Alpha 87A, I'd appreciate your comments on how you accommodated the higher tube height of the 3CPXs. Did you use smaller ceramic standoffs, eliminate the standoffs entirely, etc.?

Thanks.

73 K9IR Paula

888. Re: [Alpha87a] 3CPX800A7s in 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-07 08:03:13 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 887 Message: 888

Hi Paula,

I have a par of Eimac 3CPX1500a7 in Alpha 77sx instead of 3CX1500a7. It works fine, but need just a bit more drive to reach the same power level as before. The CPX tubes needs a bit higher plate voltage. I hope it helps.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/4/6 Paula <pmuscian@...>

>
>
> Hello all--
>
> If anyone has used Eimac 3CPX800A7 tubes in place of the 3CX800A7s in an
> Alpha 87A, I'd appreciate your comments on how you accommodated the higher
> tube height of the 3CPXs. Did you use smaller ceramic standoffs, eliminate
> the standoffs entirely, etc.?
>
> Thanks.
>
> 73 K9IR Paula
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

889. de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-17 04:03:46 UTC
From: Tord Julander
Topic: 889 Message: 889

Hi,

After going trough the nightmare of finding a replacement Tx PIN and
getting the 87A up and running we are now facing a new problem with a permanent "fault 24".
First of all, the amp has been performing great with the new Tx PIN for a couple of weeks.
Only one thing, there was some "fault 20" false alarms that was cured by reseating a few connectors on the LVPS board.

Now, all of a sudden the amp shut itself down while in stby.
At power on the "fault 24" appears and it shuts down after few seconds.
It does not pass thru the warming up 3 min sequence either.

I have been measuring the -109V and that is all ok, checked powercord, AC connector tightened
and gone thru the different steps that has been presented by the Alpha tech's in previous Internet posts. Measured the Megohm resistors at the HV board etc. They seem to be all ok.
HV to the tubedeck has been disconnected in order to check wether it had to do with the tubes.
BTW the tubes are brand new and put in at the time PIN's were replaced.
Fault remains after disconnecting tubedeck.

At one occasion I managed to powerup the amp and one very important thing was noticed!
HV seemed to be the problem, the LED bargraph were flickering and did not show a steady value.
I decided to log mesurements of the HV by using the RS232 port.
HV varied between 1730-2770V logged at the RS232 port.
Unfortunately I have mislaid my Fluke HV probe somewere,
as a result "real" voltage measurements at the HV board has not yet been performed.

Could there be a problem related to the 87A's own HV measurement?
No smell or signs of burned components, only those Mohm resistors show some color but measures ok resistance

HV capacitors look ok, while measuring they seem to be "charged normally" by the Fluke meter.

This amp is an old one, date code is Dec 1991, of course the aging is showing up...

Now, I want to ask this group for advice: Is there some of you that has run into this kind of problem?
Maybe Glenn at Alpha is reading this and is ready to step in with some valuable advice?

73 de Tord - SM3EVR

890. Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-17 23:15:22 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 890 Message: 890

I have noticed on start up at times the Alpha Max does not engage. No blinking light when it starts. I use the 87A communication program and turn it on. Sometimes I just turn it on from the front panel. Question is why does it not come on automatically all the time. If it was on at previous shutdown should it not come on from new startup?

891. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-18 01:24:11 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 890 Message: 891

When this occurred, did you loose AC power or un-plug the amp from the AC power source?

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: AlTC
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2011 7:15 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha Max does not alway come on?

I have noticed on start up at times the Alpha Max does not engage. No blinking light when it starts. I use the 87A communication program and turn it on. Sometimes I just turn it on from the front panel. Question is why does it not come on automatically all the time. If it was on at previous shutdown should it not come on from new startup?

892. RE: [Alpha87a] de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-18 16:43:45 UTC
From: k2waltk
Topic: 889 Message: 892

Hi Tord,

In your message about the Fault 24, I'm sorry I can't offer much in the way on assistance. It seems that you have tried everything that possible that is available in the public domain. Indeed, it would good if Glenn responded to your post with a solution or some hints.

One thing caught me eye:

"After going trough the nightmare of finding a replacement Tx PIN..."

Can you elaborate on this more. I'm wondering if you have found a source besides Alpha to get the diodes? Thanx in advance and good luck with the trouble shooting. I'm currently in the process of trouble shooting a Fault 1. Very frustrating, and I'll be going thru some of the steps you've taken with the LVPS, etc.

73 de Walt - K2WK
Gordonsville, VA USA

893. AlphaMax Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-18 21:23:32 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 893 Message: 893

Without taking off the front cover, how do I tell if ALphaMax is installed in my 87A? I seem to recall reading someplace that if the tune led did such and such at rest, them AlphaMax is already installed. Also, how loud is normal for band changes? Is a loud clunk normal?
Rick VE9HF

894. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-18 21:35:43 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 893 Message: 894

Try this link:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts/What-is-the-best-way-to-use-the-87A-AlphaMax-functions

There is a fairly loud noise when changing bands.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 4/18/2011 3:23 PM, ve9hf wrote:
>
> Without taking off the front cover, how do I tell if ALphaMax is
> installed in my 87A? I seem to recall reading someplace that if the
> tune led did such and such at rest, them AlphaMax is already
> installed. Also, how loud is normal for band changes? Is a loud clunk
> normal?
> Rick VE9HF
>

895. Re: de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-18 22:11:25 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 889 Message: 895

Here is a list of possible causes of a Fault 24. Some may not apply in this case, but this is the complete list for your future reference.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

---

1) Do you notice that the amp is always on the same band when this happens?

2) Check the AC mains voltage and what you have the 87A set for. You must measure the AC voltage with a digital multimeter, the actual voltage must be within +/- 10 vac of what the amp is set for. Your line voltage may vary quite a bit from one season to another.

3) Unplug the amp and remove the cover. On the AC voltage selection terminal strip, the heavy white wire goes on the first of 4 terminals and does not move. For 240vac, the other heavy white wire should be on the 4th screw terminal (2 empty screws between them).

4) Visually check that connector J3 on the right rear edge of the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS) is plugged onto the pins on the LVPS circuit board. This connector is just below the horizontal circuit board, and next to the white supporting post. It can be pulled loose when installing the transformer. Look at the red connectors in the same area of the LVPS to be sure they are all plugged in.

5) Measure from the gold-colored resistor on the chassis of the amp (left side of RF section) to ground to see if it is shorted to the chassis. You should measure 18 ohms across the two parallel resistors. The resistance to the chassis on either end should be more than 100 kohms. If it is too low it will drag down the -109vdc.

6) Look carefully at the monoblock HV bridge rectifier on the HV circuit board (about 1.5" square, black, 4 leads coming out of it), inspect it to be sure there are no burned areas or signs of arcing. If it is mounted under the HV circuit board, it may have fallen off the board and be shorting to something.

7) Check the three resistors R15, R16, R17 (all 1 megohm, measure about 667k in the circuit), R20 (measures 3.8k to ground) and R38 (1 kohm), all located on the left side of the HV circuit board. This is the HV monitoring circuit and can cause Fault 24 even if the HV is good.

8) Check transistors and regulator on the right side of the HV circuit board, be sure they are not bent or broken.

896. Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 322

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-19 16:43:33 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 896 Message: 896

What the told me is that if you press the Enter button and the Load button
at the same time, then the Default light blinks then you have and are in
the Alpha Max Mode, which is where I usually run my amp.

Tom
N6AJR

In a message dated 4/19/2011 3:09:11 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time,
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com writes:

_Alpha 87A Amplifiers _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZWIyYWdqBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZW
MDaGRyBHNsawNocGgEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)

Messages In This Digest (4 Messages)

1a.
Re: de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please!
(mip://0704b5b8/default.html#1a) From: k2waltk
1b.
Re: de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please!
(mip://0704b5b8/default.html#1b) From: Glenn AE0Q
2a.
AlphaMax Question (mip://0704b5b8/default.html#2a) From: ve9hf
2b.
Re: AlphaMax Question (mip://0704b5b8/default.html#2b) From: Joe - WDØM

View All Topics (http://groups.yahoo.com
/group/Alpha87a/messages;_ylc=X3oDMTJnY28yamI2BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNw
SWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOAR
zZWMDZG1zZwRzbGsDYXRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5?xm=1&m=p&tidx=1) | _Create
New Topic_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJnc2Q2MzZ2BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZG1zZwRz
bGsDbnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5)
Messages

1a.
_Re: de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please! _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/892;_ylc=X3oDMTJxNmduZHNsBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
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WUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)
Posted by: "k2waltk" _k2waltk@... _
(mailto:k2waltk@...?Subject= Re:%20de%20SM3EVR:%20Fault%2024.%20Advice%20needed%20please!)
_k2wk _

(http://profiles.yahoo.com/k2wk)
Mon Apr 18, 2011 9:44 am (PDT)

Hi Tord,

In your message about the Fault 24, I'm sorry I can't offer much in the way on assistance. It seems that you have tried everything that possible that is available in the public domain. Indeed, it would good if Glenn responded to your post with a solution or some hints.

One thing caught me eye:

"After going trough the nightmare of finding a replacement Tx PIN..."

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(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?Subject=
Re:%20de%20SM3EVR:%20Fault%2024.%20Advice%20needed%20please!) | _Reply via web post _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJxcjI2M
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?act=reply&messageNum=892)
_Messages in this topic _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/889;_ylc=X3oDMTM0djczNTNwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
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ZAM4ODk-) (3)
1b.
_Re: de SM3EVR: Fault 24. Advice needed please! _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/895;_ylc=X3oDMTJxMG51MGFoBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
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WUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)
Posted by: "Glenn AE0Q" _gm5bkc@... _
(mailto:gm5bkc@gmail.com?Subject=
Re:%20de%20SM3EVR:%20Fault%2024.%20Advice%20needed%20please!) _gm5bkc _
(http://profiles.yahoo.com/gm5bkc)
Mon Apr 18, 2011 3:11 pm (PDT)

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73 - Glenn AE0Q

---

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TcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTUEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3JwbHkEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--?
act=reply&messageNum=895)
_Messages in this topic _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/889;_ylc=X3oDMTM0bXByNWFtBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
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NTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTUEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQR0cGNJ
ZAM4ODk-) (3)

2a.
_AlphaMax Question _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/893;_ylc=X3oDMTJxZTRhbzIwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
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EwOARtc2dJZAM4OTMEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Ztc2cEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)
Posted by: "ve9hf" _ve9hf@... _ (mailto:ve9hf@...?Subject=
Re:%20AlphaMax%20Question) _ve9hf _ (http://profiles.yahoo.com/ve9hf)
Mon Apr 18, 2011 2:23 pm (PDT)

Without taking off the front cover, how do I tell if ALphaMax is installed
in my 87A? I seem to recall reading someplace that if the tune led did
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Rick VE9HF

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Re:%20AlphaMax%20Question) | _Reply via web post _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJxZ2cza2xyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQ
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_Messages in this topic _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/893;_ylc=X3oDMTM0cm5rYjViBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
GdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcw
NTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTMEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQR0cGNJ
ZAM4OTM-) (2)
2b.
_Re: AlphaMax Question _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/894;_ylc=X3oDMTJxZ2xmYnFxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
GdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNT
A2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTQEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Ztc2cEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)
Posted by: "Joe - WDØM" _wd0m@... _ (mailto:wd0m@...m?Subject=
Re:%20AlphaMax%20Question) _wd0m _ (http://profiles.yahoo.com/wd0m)
Mon Apr 18, 2011 2:35 pm (PDT)

Try this link:

_http://www.rfconcephttp://www.rfhttp://wwwhttp://www.rhttp://wwhttp://www.h
ttp://www.rfhttp://ww_
(http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts/What-is-the-best-way-to-use-the-87A-AlphaMax-fu
nctions)

There is a fairly loud noise when changing bands.

73

Joe
WDØM

On 4/18/2011 3:23 PM, ve9hf wrote:
>
> Without taking off the front cover, how do I tell if ALphaMax is
> installed in my 87A? I seem to recall reading someplace that if the
> tune led did such and such at rest, them AlphaMax is already
> installed. Also, how loud is normal for band changes? Is a loud clunk
> normal?
> Rick VE9HF
>

_Back to top _ (mip://0704b5b8/default.html#toc)
_Reply to sender _
(mailto:wd0m@...?Subject=Re:%20AlphaMax%20Question) | _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?Subject=
Re:%20AlphaMax%20Question) | _Reply via web post _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJxZzdsMjdoBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSW
QDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTQEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3JwbHkEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ
--?act=reply&messageNum=894)
_Messages in this topic _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/893;_ylc=X3oDMTM0b3N0Y24wBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
GdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcw
NTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAM4OTQEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQR0cGNJ
ZAM4OTM-) (2)

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DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdn
RsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEzMDMyMDc3NDk-)

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(http://us.lrd.yahoo.com/_ylc=X3oDMTJucDF0b3A1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BF9wAzEEZ3JwSWQDMjEwNjQzOTQE
Z3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDYzMTA4BHNlYwNuY21vZARzbGs
DYnJhbmQEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--;_ylg=1/SIG=11314uv3k/**http://brand.yahoo.
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(http://us.lrd.yahoo.com/_ylc=X3oDMTJwdDJwNXNlBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BF9wAzIEZ3JwSWQDMjEwNjQzOTQE
Z3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDYzMTA4BHNlYwNuY21vZARzbGsDdG
9vbGJhcgRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5;_ylg=1/SIG=11c6dvmk9/**http://toolbar.yahoo.c

om/?.cpdl=ygrps)
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(http://groups.yahoo.com/start;_ylc=X3oDMTJwNTJ1czlhBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BF9wAzMEZ3JwSWQDMjEwNj
QzOTQEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDYzMTA4BHNlYwNuY21vZAR
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AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZ
WMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEzMDMyMDc3NDk-) | _Visit Your Group on the
Web_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJkMTM5NXZtBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNocARzdGltZ
QMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5)

Messages
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/messages;_ylc=X3oDMTJmZDlpYmZqBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy
cElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnR
yBHNsawNtc2dzBHN0aW1lAzEzMDMyMDc3NDk-) | _Files_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files;_ylc=X3oDMTJnazN0OXQyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycEl
kAzIxMDY0Mz
k0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNmaWxlcwRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5)
| _Photos_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/photos;_ylc=X3oDMTJmNm4yMjE5BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycE
lkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnR
yBHNsawNwaG90BHN0aW1lAzEzMDMyMDc3NDk-) | _Links_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/links;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMWhkdmNiBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycEl
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| _Database_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/database;_ylc=X3oDMTJkcGc1cWk3BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy
cElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWM
DZnRyBHNsawNkYgRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5) | _Polls_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/polls;_ylc=X3oDMTJnN2tyZTVzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycEl
kAzIxMDY0Mz
k0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNwb2xscwRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5)
| _Members_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/members;_ylc=X3oDMTJmdmVyZm9lBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdyc
ElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZ
nRyBHNsawNtYnJzBHN0aW1lAzEzMDMyMDc3NDk-) | _Calendar_
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/calendar;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZWlhNmhnBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy

cElkAz
IxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNjYW
wEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--)

(http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlYjExa25uBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHN
wSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0
OQ--)
Change settings via the Web
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/join;_ylc=X3oDMTJnbnE2N24zBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA
2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNzdG5ncwRzdGltZQMxMzAzMjA3NzQ5) (Yahoo! ID
required)
Change settings via email: _Switch delivery to Individual_
(mailto:Alpha87a-normal@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email Delivery: Indiviual Email) |
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(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJlb2F0dXZxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZn
RyBHNsawNocGYEc3RpbWUDMTMwMzIwNzc0OQ--) | _Yahoo! Groups Terms of Use _
(http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/) | _Unsubscribe _
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897. AlphaMax Autotune and Blinking Default LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-19 21:44:49 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 897 Message: 897

So when my default led is blinking continuously, that means Autotune is turned on, correct?
Rick VE9HF

898. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax Autotune and Blinking Default LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-19 21:45:56 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 897 Message: 898

Correct...go have fun.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 4/19/2011 3:44 PM, ve9hf wrote:
>
> So when my default led is blinking continuously, that means Autotune
> is turned on, correct? Rick VE9HF
>
>

899. Re: AlphaMax Autotune and Blinking Default LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-19 22:03:39 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 897 Message: 899

Thank Joe. VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe - WDØM <wd0m@...> wrote:
>
> Correct...go have fun.
>
> 73
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
> On 4/19/2011 3:44 PM, ve9hf wrote:
> >
> > So when my default led is blinking continuously, that means Autotune
> > is turned on, correct? Rick VE9HF
> >
> >
>

900. AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-22 19:47:14 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 900 Message: 900

I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF

901. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-23 00:02:49 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 900 Message: 901

Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program

----- Original Message -----
From: ve9hf
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32

I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF

902. Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-23 16:56:07 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 900 Message: 902

There are numerous freeware utilities that allow you to make a window stay always on top. Just Google "make window stay on top". Much cheaper than buying a second monitor.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: ve9hf
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32
>
>
>
> I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF
>

903. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-23 18:34:16 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 900 Message: 903

OH come on... you can do more with dual monitors...why cram it all on one screen unless is large... its personal preference and easy... but if you want go run your station on ur iPhone... ur preference! YMMV

... monitors are cheap... ur local gov throws them away every 3yrs... plenty around for free but I suppose the app might be free... just a preference I tend to multitask when operating, sending emails, googling, and my station has several dash boards for amp, antswitch, rotors, etc. always on top just doesn't do for me. Fact is I use four monitors.

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: dickgreen03755
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 12:56 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

There are numerous freeware utilities that allow you to make a window stay always on top. Just Google "make window stay on top". Much cheaper than buying a second monitor.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: ve9hf
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32
>
>
>
> I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF
>

904. Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-23 19:12:01 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 900 Message: 904

Thanks Dick. I found a 6K freeware program called "Always on Top" and it works perfectly and isn't infected with any crap software. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> There are numerous freeware utilities that allow you to make a window stay always on top. Just Google "make window stay on top". Much cheaper than buying a second monitor.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@> wrote:
> >
> > Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: ve9hf
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32
> >
> >
> >
> > I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF
> >
>

905. Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-24 13:04:28 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 900 Message: 905

Well, I only have *three* monitors, but you're still preaching to the choir. The third monitor, by the way, is a 7" touch-screen that sits behind the keyboard and on which I run my own "push-button" station control software for antenna switching and tuning, amp (Acom 2000A) tuning, stack match control, SteppIR control and rotor control.

It was, however, my impression that the OP just wanted the window to stay on top. Even with multiple monitors you can sometimes run into one program obscuring another.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> OH come on... you can do more with dual monitors...why cram it all on one screen unless is large... its personal preference and easy... but if you want go run your station on ur iPhone... ur preference! YMMV
>
> ... monitors are cheap... ur local gov throws them away every 3yrs... plenty around for free but I suppose the app might be free... just a preference I tend to multitask when operating, sending emails, googling, and my station has several dash boards for amp, antswitch, rotors, etc. always on top just doesn't do for me. Fact is I use four monitors.
>
> 73,
> dave
> wa3gin
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: dickgreen03755
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 12:56 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32
>
>
>
> There are numerous freeware utilities that allow you to make a window stay always on top. Just Google "make window stay on top". Much cheaper than buying a second monitor.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@> wrote:
> >
> > Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: ve9hf

> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32
> >
> >
> >
> > I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF
> >
>

906. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-24 13:11:18 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 900 Message: 906

Yes, very true... and now that I'll be video streaming I'll need to add a 4th, haha.

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: dickgreen03755
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2011 9:04 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32

Well, I only have *three* monitors, but you're still preaching to the choir. The third monitor, by the way, is a 7" touch-screen that sits behind the keyboard and on which I run my own "push-button" station control software for antenna switching and tuning, amp (Acom 2000A) tuning, stack match control, SteppIR control and rotor control.

It was, however, my impression that the OP just wanted the window to stay on top. Even with multiple monitors you can sometimes run into one program obscuring another.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@...> wrote:
>
> OH come on... you can do more with dual monitors...why cram it all on one screen unless is large... its personal preference and easy... but if you want go run your station on ur iPhone... ur preference! YMMV
>
> ... monitors are cheap... ur local gov throws them away every 3yrs... plenty around for free but I suppose the app might be free... just a preference I tend to multitask when operating, sending emails, googling, and my station has several dash boards for amp, antswitch, rotors, etc. always on top just doesn't do for me. Fact is I use four monitors.
>
> 73,
> dave
> wa3gin
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: dickgreen03755
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 12:56 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: AlphaRemote and Logger32
>
>
>
> There are numerous freeware utilities that allow you to make a window stay always on top.

Just Google "make window stay on top". Much cheaper than buying a second monitor.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "WA3GIN" <wa3gin@> wrote:
> >
> > Run Dual monitors put the Alpha on one with your other dash boards and use the 2nd monitor for you logging program
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: ve9hf
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 3:47 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaRemote and Logger32
> >
> >
> >
> > I have both running. The problem is that whenever I click on something in Logger32, the AlphaRemote window disappears into the background. Is there anyway to keep this from happening? Rick VE9HF
> >
>

907. High Power Spike

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-24 13:25:48 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 907 Message: 907

I was adjusting a 1.5Kw coupler attached to the 75M Jamaca antenna and when keying up the 87a in CW mode found the coupler I was using would arch causing the 87a to fault. The drive to the 87a was 30 watts so the output was less than 1Kw. I wasn't able to succeed with 1kW testing until I installed a 3Kw coupler. It looks like there is an instantaneous spike from the Kenwood TS480 that drives the 87a to almost full-power for an nanosecond or two; very fast but enough to cause an arch on the coupler capacitor plates and thus the 87 throws out a protection fault.

Has anyone experienced this scenario? A Fix?

73,
dave
wa3gin

908. N1MM VIRTUAL PORT SPLITTER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-24 14:08:00 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 908 Message: 908

I now have the HB9ZS software running, instead of AlphaRemote. Am I correct that once I get the virtual ports set up I can point and click in N1MM and the amp will follow the radio frequency? That's my objective anyway. Rick VE9HF

909. Re: N1MM VIRTUAL PORT SPLITTER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-04-25 20:10:15 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 908 Message: 909

Read the Manual and start with:
- Setup the virtual port Splitter
- Start the N1MM Logger
- Setup the RS232 port of the N1MM Logger according to your virtual port settings.
- Start Alpha CAT
- Select Comm Server Omni
- In the Comm Server Omni Window select Config TRX
- In the Omni-Rig Settings select your Rig and setup the settings
- Click "OK"
- You now see the TRX Frequency
- In the N1MM Logger Window , in the Comm Server Omni and in the Alpha 87a Communication Window (TRX Freq)
The Alpha 87a will follow according the TRX Frequency

Walter, HB9ZS
==========

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve9hf" <ve9hf@...> wrote:
>
> I now have the HB9ZS software running, instead of AlphaRemote. Am I correct that once I get the virtual ports set up I can point and click in N1MM and the amp will follow the radio frequency? That's my objective anyway. Rick VE9HF
>

910. Hard fault on 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-05 09:12:16 UTC
From: g3sem
Topic: 910 Message: 910

Morning Gentlemen (& Ladies)

My Alpha 87A does not fire up ... Starts the opening sequence and then drops out. I have a Hard Fault no 37 Band Switch not moving.

I have had problems with the bandswitch not locating properly on 10 metres and have changed the postion using K6FG's patch. So I must assume the bandswitch for some reason is not correctly moving or is stuck.

Has anyone had any experience in taking this area apart and and perhaps lubricating spindles etc?

Many Thanks Paul G3SEM

911. NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-06 01:18:33 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 911 Message: 911

My blower is noisy, so I ordered a new one. This amp was built in 1992 and although it works perfectly, I'm convinced it's alot noisier than it should be when it turns on and changes bands. The only way to describe it is there's a "dry" sound coming out of the moving parts. Is there anything inside that I could lubricate, while I have it opened up to change the blower? Rick VE9HF

912. Re: [Alpha87a] Hard fault on 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 08:18:18 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 910 Message: 912

Hi Paul,

I saw a Fault 37 on shipping damaged 87a. The fix was simple, just unscrew a bit the screw below the amp, which holds the bandswitch holder. That way the bandswitch can rotate easier. Turn on the amp, and see what happen.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/5/5 g3sem <G3SEM@...>

>
>
> Morning Gentlemen (& Ladies)
>
> My Alpha 87A does not fire up ... Starts the opening sequence and then
> drops out. I have a Hard Fault no 37 Band Switch not moving.
>
> I have had problems with the bandswitch not locating properly on 10 metres
> and have changed the postion using K6FG's patch. So I must assume the
> bandswitch for some reason is not correctly moving or is stuck.
>
> Has anyone had any experience in taking this area apart and and perhaps
> lubricating spindles etc?
>
> Many Thanks Paul G3SEM
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

913. Re: [Alpha87a] NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 08:27:29 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 911 Message: 913

Hi Rick,

my previous 87a has been built in 1993 and as far I recall, it had the same problem. The blower shaft was warn. Lubricating did not help much at that point, I think this should be done periodically before. Anyhow you can try. The instruction to remove blower are somewhere in the file directory on this group.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>

>
>
> My blower is noisy, so I ordered a new one. This amp was built in 1992 and
> although it works perfectly, I'm convinced it's alot noisier than it should
> be when it turns on and changes bands. The only way to describe it is
> there's a "dry" sound coming out of the moving parts. Is there anything
> inside that I could lubricate, while I have it opened up to change the
> blower? Rick VE9HF
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

914. Re: [Alpha87a] NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 13:44:03 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 911 Message: 914

Instructions on the 87a blower replacement are available at:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts

73,

Joe
WD?M
http://www.wd0m.com/

On 5/7/2011 2:27 AM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
> Hi Rick,
>
> my previous 87a has been built in 1993 and as far I recall, it had the
> same problem. The blower shaft was warn. Lubricating did not help much
> at that point, I think this should be done periodically before. Anyhow
> you can try. The instruction to remove blower are somewhere in the
> file directory on this group.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@... <mailto:ve9hf@...>>
>
> My blower is noisy, so I ordered a new one. This amp was built in
> 1992 and although it works perfectly, I'm convinced it's alot
> noisier than it should be when it turns on and changes bands. The
> only way to describe it is there's a "dry" sound coming out of the
> moving parts. Is there anything inside that I could lubricate,
> while I have it opened up to change the blower? Rick VE9HF
>
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>
>

915. Re: NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 13:55:10 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 911 Message: 915

Thanks Joe. I'm going to take lots of pictures while in progress, as you suggest. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe - WDØM <wd0m@...> wrote:
>
> Instructions on the 87a blower replacement are available at:
>
> http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts
>
> 73,
>
> Joe
> WDØM
> http://www.wd0m.com/
>
>
>
> On 5/7/2011 2:27 AM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
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> >
> > my previous 87a has been built in 1993 and as far I recall, it had the
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> > 2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@... <mailto:ve9hf@...>>
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> > 1992 and although it works perfectly, I'm convinced it's alot
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> > only way to describe it is there's a "dry" sound coming out of the
> > moving parts. Is there anything inside that I could lubricate,
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> >
> >
> >
> >
> > --
> > Tadej Arcon, S52X
> >
> >
>

916. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 14:44:58 UTC
From: W7USR
Topic: 911 Message: 916

Rick,

If you decide to lubricate, please send me n email and I will buy your
87A. It will be in excellent condition just before you begin the
lubrication.
These are electronic devices not meant to be lubricated. The little steppir
motors are just naturally noisy.

Tom/W7USR

On Sat, May 7, 2011 at 6:55 AM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:

>
>
> Thanks Joe. I'm going to take lots of pictures while in progress, as you
> suggest. Rick VE9HF
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe - WDØM <wd0m@...> wrote:
> >
> > Instructions on the 87a blower replacement are available at:
> >
> > http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts
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> > 73,
> >
> > Joe
> > WDØM
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> >
> >
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> > > Hi Rick,
> > >
> > > my previous 87a has been built in 1993 and as far I recall, it had the
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> > > at that point, I think this should be done periodically before. Anyhow
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> > > file directory on this group.
> > >
> > > 73s Tadej S52X
> > >
> > > 2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@... <mailto:ve9hf@...>>
>
> > >

> > > My blower is noisy, so I ordered a new one. This amp was built in
> > > 1992 and although it works perfectly, I'm convinced it's alot
> > > noisier than it should be when it turns on and changes bands. The
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> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > --
> > > Tadej Arcon, S52X
> > >
> > >
> >
>
>
>

--
TOM
W7USR

917. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 17:43:16 UTC
From: k2waltk
Topic: 911 Message: 917

Hi Rick,

When I was troubleshooting and fixing my 87a, I took a lot of
pictures. Not only was it very valuable fixing the amp, it serves
me well as a great archive of the innards of the amp. The pix are
very helpful troubleshooting & fixing my current Fault 1 problems.

73 de Walt -- K2WK
Gordonsville, VA

} -----Original Message-----
} From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
} Behalf Of ve9hf
} Sent: Saturday, May 07, 2011 9:55 AM
} To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
} Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: NOISE??
}
}
}
} Thanks Joe. I'm going to take lots of pictures while in progress, as you
suggest.
} Rick VE9HF
}
} --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
} Joe - WDØM <wd0m@...> wrote:
} >
} > Instructions on the 87a blower replacement are available at:
} >
} > http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts
} >
} > 73,
} >
} > Joe
} > WDØM
} > http://www.wd0m.com/
} >
} >
} >
} > On 5/7/2011 2:27 AM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
} > > Hi Rick,
} > >
} > > my previous 87a has been built in 1993 and as far I recall, it had
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} > > same problem. The blower shaft was warn. Lubricating did not help
much
} > > at that point, I think this should be done periodically before.

Anyhow
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} > > 73s Tadej S52X
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} > > 2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@... <mailto:ve9hf@...>>
} > >
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} > >
} > >
} > >
} > > --
} > > Tadej Arcon, S52X
} > >
} > >
} >
}
}
}
}

918. How Old is the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 18:56:49 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 918 Message: 918

Does anyone have a breakdown of how to tell the 87A amps build date?

919. RE: [Alpha87a] How Old is the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 19:18:43 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 918 Message: 919

In 2000 when Alpha changed to 10 digit serial numbers it became easier to understand the number.

first 2 digits = model number (87, 99, 89)
next 2 = last two digits of the year of build
third 2 = week in that year of build
last 4 = unique number of the amp in the production run of that model

The early 87a and 89 amps just used 8 digits for year, week, (4) number of amp.

Late in the 90's changed to the first digit = model, 2nd digit = year, next 2 = week, last 4 =
number of amp

This was from Glenn at Alpha

73 Larry K1ZW

-----Original Message-----
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of AlTC
Sent: Saturday, May 07, 2011 2:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] How Old is the 87A

Does anyone have a breakdown of how to tell the 87A amps build date?

Yahoo! Groups Links

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1325 / Virus Database: 1500/3622 - Release Date: 05/07/11

920. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: NOISE??

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-07 19:27:53 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 911 Message: 920

This ca help too: http://www.hamradiomarket.com/Articles/Alpha87A.htm

73s Tadej S52X

2011/5/7 k2waltk <k2waltk@...>

>
>
>
> Hi Rick,
>
> When I was troubleshooting and fixing my 87a, I took a lot of
> pictures. Not only was it very valuable fixing the amp, it serves
> me well as a great archive of the innards of the amp. The pix are
> very helpful troubleshooting & fixing my current Fault 1 problems.
>
> 73 de Walt -- K2WK
> Gordonsville, VA
>
> } -----Original Message-----
> } From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
> } Behalf Of ve9hf
> } Sent: Saturday, May 07, 2011 9:55 AM
> } To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> } Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: NOISE??
>
> }
> }
> }
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> } --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
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> } > 73,
> } >
> } > Joe
> } > WDØM
> } > http://www.wd0m.com/

> } >
> } >
> } >
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> } > > 73s Tadej S52X
> } > >
> } > > 2011/5/6 ve9hf <ve9hf@... <mailto:ve9hf@...>>
> } > >
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> } > >
> } > > --
> } > > Tadej Arcon, S52X
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Tadej Arcon, S52X

921. Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-09 01:57:40 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 890 Message: 921

I have posted once before about this. On start up Alphamax does not come on automatically. This happen once every 3-4 times of use. I simply turn it on from the panel or the software. It was suggested that it was because of a brief power failure but that is not the case. Any suggestions would be helpful. when I shut down I put the amp into standby then power off. I sometimes use the 87a communication program. Thanks in advance for any help on this. FYI the amp work flawlessly other then this.

922. Re: Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-09 18:34:25 UTC
From: AlTC
Topic: 890 Message: 922

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "AlTC" <altc427@...> wrote:
>
> I have posted once before about this. On start up Alphamax does not come on automatically. This happen once every 3-4 times of use. I simply turn it on from the panel or the software. It was suggested that it was because of a brief power failure but that is not the case. Any suggestions would be helpful. when I shut down I put the amp into standby then power off. I sometimes use the 87a communication program. Thanks in advance for any help on this. FYI the amp work flawlessly other then this.
>
No always plugged in and no power failure

923. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-09 18:47:29 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 890 Message: 923

HUH ??

On Mon, May 9, 2011 at 12:34 PM, AlTC <altc427@...> wrote:

>
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "AlTC" <altc427@...> wrote:
> >
> > I have posted once before about this. On start up Alphamax does not come
> on automatically. This happen once every 3-4 times of use. I simply turn it
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> helpful. when I shut down I put the amp into standby then power off. I
> sometimes use the 87a communication program. Thanks in advance for any help
> on this. FYI the amp work flawlessly other then this.
> >
> No always plugged in and no power failure
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
http://www.k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC http://www.w5rrr.org

924. Re: Alpha Max does not alway come on?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-05-10 14:52:10 UTC
From: AlTC
Topic: 890 Message: 924

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
> HUH ??
>
>
>
> On Mon, May 9, 2011 at 12:34 PM, AlTC <altc427@...> wrote:
>
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "AlTC" <altc427@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I have posted once before about this. On start up Alphamax does not come
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> > brief power failure but that is not the case. Any suggestions would be
> > helpful. when I shut down I put the amp into standby then power off. I
> > sometimes use the 87a communication program. Thanks in advance for any help
> > on this. FYI the amp work flawlessly other then this.
> > >
> > No always plugged in and no power failure
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
> M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
> Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
> Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
> Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
> Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
> Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
> Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
> Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
> http://www.k5elp.com
> Past Member JSCARC http://www.w5rrr.org
>
Ok the blinking light AKA default button this show that it is engaged

925. Alpha Fault 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-18 12:30:38 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 925 Message: 925

Well it happened the Amplifier faults on key down.It shows fault 1 however it will operate on the low power setting. Anybody have any experience on this as far a repair. Just curious as to why it will operate at 1 KW on low without fault also.

926. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Fault 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-19 20:44:34 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 925 Message: 926

Is it a hard or a soft fault?

73s Tadej S52X

2011/6/18 AlTC <altc427@yahoo.com>

> **
>
>
> Well it happened the Amplifier faults on key down.It shows fault 1 however
> it will operate on the low power setting. Anybody have any experience on
> this as far a repair. Just curious as to why it will operate at 1 KW on low
> without fault also.
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

927. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha Fault 1

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-19 21:20:32 UTC
From: W4CCS
Topic: 925 Message: 927

According to the book, it really depends on the condition the amp was in when the fault occurred.

it's a "Soft" fault when receive PIN back bias not at minimum required level with key down and _*No RF Drive..*_

It's a "HARD" fault if _*RF drive was present.*_

W4CCS

On 6/19/2011 4:44 PM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
> Is it a hard or a soft fault?
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/6/18 AlTC <altc427@... <mailto:altc427@...>>
>
> Well it happened the Amplifier faults on key down.It shows fault 1
> however it will operate on the low power setting. Anybody have any
> experience on this as far a repair. Just curious as to why it will
> operate at 1 KW on low without fault also.
>
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>
>

928. FOR SALE: RARE ALPHA 6 50 MHz 2 KW 6 METER HAM RADIO AMPLIFIER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-24 02:29:01 UTC
From: n3dg
Topic: 928 Message: 928

Alpha 6 is made in Longmont, Colorado and is a Custom-Built, Very Limited Edition 6 Meter Amplifier conservatively rated at 1500++ Watts Output on 50 MHz tunable up to 2 KW, made by Alpha Power as a Custom Order and Very Limited Edition using a Single, Robust 4CX1600B (Svetlana GU-91B) which is very affordable and readily available. Only 10-20 Watts drive delivers 1 KW Output and that is 100% Continuous Duty (unlike solid-state amplifiers).

Alpha 6 Features:
☐ Single 4CX1600B Ceramic-Metal Tetrode providing a maximum plate dissipation of over 1.6 KW
☐ Supports the Entire 6 meter Amateur Radio Band 50 MHz -- 54 MHz
☐ Comfortably delivers Full Legal Limit on the 6 meter band in All modes
☐ Hypersil 3.5 KVA transformer
☐ Grid & Screen Current Limiting Protection
☐ Protection Circuit for Excessive SWR, Average Plate Current, RF Arc, Mistuning, HV Fault, HV Crowbar, Power Interlock, etc.
☐ Supports 90-130 Volts AC, 190-250 Volts AC, now wired for 220 Volts AC
☐ No Duty Cycle Limitation -- 100% Carrier, Key Down with included optional Cooling Fan
☐ Rugged Construction -- Built like a Tank
☐ Alpha Collector's Item and Serial Number 2

This Alpha 6 is in Mint Condition with the Optional Auxiliary Cooling Fan, Original Alpha 6 Owners Manual and both Alpha Cartons for Amplifier and Transformer (shipped separately) and has just been sitting on the shelf rarely used and as Collector's Item as Serial Number 2. Alpha now charges over $4600 for their Alpha 8406 which is of the same design, this Alpha 6 is a Collector's Item and Serial Number 2 and Mint at $3500 plus shipping and insurance.

929. Alpha DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-26 11:58:49 UTC
From: wb5xx
Topic: 929 Message: 929

Anyone on the group have a nice 87A DAS they would sell.Please contact off group.Thanks

930. Alpha 87A band segments

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-06-30 21:14:09 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 930 Message: 930

I noticed there was no band segment charts in the Alpha 87A manual as there is in the 9500. Does anybody have them or should I just use the 9500 ones?

931. Re: Alpha 87A band segments

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-01 11:09:38 UTC
From: dodgy_dxer
Topic: 930 Message: 931

I am not sitting in front of my 87A right now but I am pretty sure the "band segments" are part of the front panel lettering under/above the band segment buttons?

I have managed with mine for 20+ years with no charts long before the 9500 was thought of!!

73 Fred
A65BD
87a at G4BWP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "AlTC" <altc427@...> wrote:
>
> I noticed there was no band segment charts in the Alpha 87A manual as there is in the 9500. Does anybody have them or should I just use the 9500 ones?
>

932. Re: Alpha 87A band segments

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-01 11:16:07 UTC
From: dodgy_dxer
Topic: 930 Message: 932

I found a picture with Google, ain't the internet marvellous!

Under the band switch buttons are the segment buttons, marked in 100 kHz apart from 10m and 160m

Having had an 87a for around 20 years I was going to upgrade to the 9500 when I go back to UK, but this past weekend I saw the SPE 2K in action and was impressed. It includes 6m which is a big bonus to me

Heresy?

73 Fred
A65BD
G4BWP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "AlTC" <altc427@...> wrote:
>
> I noticed there was no band segment charts in the Alpha 87A manual as there is in the 9500. Does anybody have them or should I just use the 9500 ones?
>

933. MKII, Alpha 87A, Alpha DAS and Palstar AT Auto Interconnection Advice Needed

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-04 01:53:16 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 933 Message: 933

The Palstar AT Auto tuner and Alpha DAS are sitting here, not yet hooked up. Both have input and output RCA plugs for a keying line to the amp. Right now I have a keying line going from my FT-1000MP directly to the Alpha 87A. I really have two questions that I'm hoping someone can answer, since it appears alot of guys run this same gear:

1. Should I run the keying line from the FT-1000MP, then to the DAS, then to the tuner and then to the amp?

2. Since my CAT port on the back of the FT-1000MP goes to my computer for logging, I am going to run a C-IV line from the Palstar AT Auto tuner to my Microham Microkeyer II. This is just a two wire connection, correct?

Rick VE9HF

934. Alpha 87a and Alpha DAS home video

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-06 16:18:31 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 934 Message: 934

Hello Group,

Alpha 87a and Alpha DAS home video type by W4ETO is now online on you tube.

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

935. Chinese 3CX800A7

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-06 21:17:52 UTC
From: ray.higgins10
Topic: 935 Message: 935

Has anyone used 3CX800A7's in their Alpha 87A under the PRO -TEK label ?

Tnx -- Ray -- KC1MR

936. No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-16 05:11:22 UTC
From: hwingate@yahoo.com
Topic: 936 Message: 936

We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack. The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the serial port.

Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one of these, and is it an easy job?
Henry, K4HAL

937. Re: No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-16 17:35:10 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 936 Message: 937

Same thing happened to me a few years ago. The surge came in via three SteppIR controllers, rode their RS-232 connections to the computer, and proceeded to damage or destroy the RS-232 board, the motherboard, and every RS-232 device connected to the computer, including the 87A.

The symptoms were exactly the same as yours -- the 87A worked perfectly except for the RS-232 port. I tried replacing the MAX232, but it didn't solve the problem. That's because the CPU TTL port that communicates with the MAX232 was fried. The 87A was the only device in my shack in which the CPU was damaged but continued to function. The 87A CPU has an internal resistor on the TTL port that acts like a fuse, protecting the chip from overvoltage on the port. In contrast, the CPU in my Acom 2000A was completely destroyed.

I would certainly try replacing the MAX232 chip yourself, if you have the skills. You'll have to unplug the amp, remove the top and front covers, disconnect some cables (photograph or label them first), and remove the logic board. There are several variants on the MAX232, so you should get the part number (or the part itself) from RF Concepts. Alternatively, remove the front cover and read the chip part number, then order one from Mouser or your favorite supplier.

I don't recall if the MAX232 is socketed, but probably not. If not, you'll need a good desoldering tool to remove it without overheating and damaging the solder pads on the PCB. I use a Hakko 808, which runs about $200 and is well worth the investment. I would recommend installing a socket for the MAX232 while you're at it. That will ensure that you don't damage the replacement when you solder it in.

If replacing the MAX232 doesn't solve the problem, thenthe CPU's TTL port is blown, too. Unfortunately, you can't replace the CPU yourself because, even though the chip is socketed, it contains many amp-specific settings that are programmed by the factory when the amp is built. This includes things like voltage levels, trip points, positions of the bandswitch and Tune/Load caps, etc. The factory uses special equipment and procedures to measure these parameters. In some cases it's possible to send just the logic board to the factory, and they can dump the amp-specific parameters from the old CPU and load them into a new CPU. But, alas, that requires your RS-232 port to be working!

This means the entire amp will have to be sent back to the factory to program a new CPU with the amp-specific parameters. There's one slim hope this won't be necessary: depending on when it was built, the factory may have a copy of the amp-specific parameters programmed into your amp. If so, you can send just the logic board and they can install a new CPU and load the parameters. In fact, it may be possible for them to program a new CPU and send it to you without your having to send the logic board back. In my case, the factory no longer had a copy of the parameters. I think some 87A parameter files were lost in one of the several ownerhip transitions. If your amp was built later, you may be luckier than I was. Otherwise, the entire amp must go back to the factory.

In another sense I was lucky because a member of our regional contest club arranged for Brad from Alpha to come to the east coast to repair a bunch of Alpha amps ("Alpha Day"),

including replacing one of the very early 9500s. I was able to drive my amp about an hour and a half from home and stand there while Brad replaced the CPU (it was about 10 PM.) Learned a lot about the amp from Brad on that trip.

Some owners could probably live without the RS-232 interface, amd might choose to avoid an expensive round trip to the factory. I can't. My 87A is in the basement and I run run it exclusively from AlphaRemote. That said, I guess I could switch the amp on manually, make sure Auto is on, and leave it at that. I built an LED meter indicator that runs off the back panel connectors to display power and grid current in the shack. But I wouldn't be able to tell when the amp faults.

Hope all this ramble is helpful. Feel free to ask questions.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, hwingate@... wrote:
>
> We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack. The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the serial port.
>
> Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one of these, and is it an easy job?
> Henry, K4HAL
>

938. Re: [Alpha87a] No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-16 18:18:23 UTC
From: Jim Dawson
Topic: 936 Message: 938

I have a similar problem. I replaced the MAX232 with a replacement from Alpha and it didn't fix the problem.

I suspect that, like Dick, I lost the 232 part of the CPU and since my amp is a very old one, it will have to go back to
Alpha. It works fine except for the 232 port.

Jim - K9DD
----- Original Message -----
From: hwingate@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 12:11 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] No serial communications

We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack. The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the serial port.

Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one of these, and is it an easy job?
Henry, K4HAL

Yahoo! Groups Links

939. Re: [Alpha87a] No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-16 19:46:23 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 936 Message: 939

Might not be a bad idea to get one of these gizmo's for the next time.

<http://www.superwarehouse.com/Tripp_Lite_DataShield_Surge_Suppressor/DB9/p/108213>

It is an RS232 protector device from TrippLite. This one is for a DB9. Seems like cheap protection.

73
Dale, K9VUJ

On 16, Jul 2011, at 13:18, Jim Dawson wrote:

>
>
> I have a similar problem. I replaced the MAX232 with a replacement from Alpha and it didn't fix the problem.
>
> I suspect that, like Dick, I lost the 232 part of the CPU and since my amp is a very old one, it will have to go back to
> Alpha. It works fine except for the 232 port.
>
> Jim - K9DD
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: hwingate@...
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2011 12:11 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] No serial communications
>
> We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack. The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the serial port.
>
> Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one of these, and is it an easy job?
> Henry, K4HAL
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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940. Re: [Alpha87a] No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-16 10:19:10 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 936 Message: 940

Hi Herry,

I would strat with max232 and some components around first. Check also the cables inside between the com connector and pcb.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/7/16 <hwingate@...>

> **
>
>
> We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack.
> The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and
> the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the
> serial port.
>
> Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single
> MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one
> of these, and is it an easy job?
> Henry, K4HAL
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

941. Re: No serial communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-21 04:24:37 UTC
From: hwingate@yahoo.com
Topic: 936 Message: 941

Update.....
I lucked out. I removed the MAX232 chip, replaced it (in a socket) and I can now communicate with the 87A. Thanks for all the help guys!!
Henry, K4HAL

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, hwingate@... wrote:
>
> We had a nearby lightning strike that took out several things in the shack. The 87A had both fuses blown and the RS-232 port on both the computer and the 87A no longer work. Everything else on the 87A works OK except for the serial port.
>
> Looking at the 87A schematic, it looks like the serial port uses a single MAX232 chip and I think this may be the culprit. Has anyone ever changed one of these, and is it an easy job?
> Henry, K4HAL
>

942. Alpha Powers on then off

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-23 20:31:22 UTC
From: ke5mmt
Topic: 942 Message: 942

About two weeks ago I ran into an RFI issue with my station (Flex 5000A and the Alpha). I took the station down and have been troubleshooting everything from the ground up starting with the basics (rig into dummy load then antenna).

During this time the Alpha has been sitting out of the loop and unplugged. Today I began testing with the Alpha in loop but it won't start.

When I apply power with the amp terminated into a dummy load or an antenna with or without the rig connected the amp fires up as it normally does. The 7MHz band LED lights solid (where it was last used), the second SEGMENT LED lights solid (iirc this is also the portion of the 40 meter band where it was last used), both Tune LEDs light solid, the roller inductor makes it usual noise, the WAIT LED lights solid and the amp runs as though it's waiting to warm up but after about 30 seconds or so it shuts itself back off.

I've tried this into a dummy load and an antenna with and without an exciter connected all with the same results. I've checked both rear panel fuses and the one in the top and all appear to be fine.

Any ideas or suggestions?

Thanks.

Everett
KE5MMT

943. Re: Alpha Powers on then off

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-24 12:26:29 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 942 Message: 943

Strange. Sounds like a hard fault, but when that happens the amp should display the hard fault type by flashing one or more segment LEDs when you power on the next time.

I would hook up an RS-232 cable to the amp and use a PC terminal program to dump the most recent fault codes. Procedures for that are in the manual.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ke5mmt" <ke5mmt@...> wrote:
>
> About two weeks ago I ran into an RFI issue with my station (Flex 5000A and the Alpha). I took the station down and have been troubleshooting everything from the ground up starting with the basics (rig into dummy load then antenna).
>
> During this time the Alpha has been sitting out of the loop and unplugged. Today I began testing with the Alpha in loop but it won't start.
>
> When I apply power with the amp terminated into a dummy load or an antenna with or without the rig connected the amp fires up as it normally does. The 7MHz band LED lights solid (where it was last used), the second SEGMENT LED lights solid (iirc this is also the portion of the 40 meter band where it was last used), both Tune LEDs light solid, the roller inductor makes it usual noise, the WAIT LED lights solid and the amp runs as though it's waiting to warm up but after about 30 seconds or so it shuts itself back off.
>
> I've tried this into a dummy load and an antenna with and without an exciter connected all with the same results. I've checked both rear panel fuses and the one in the top and all appear to be fine.
>
> Any ideas or suggestions?
>
> Thanks.
>
> Everett
> KE5MMT
>

944. SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-25 01:07:16 UTC
From: n3dg
Topic: 944 Message: 944

Hello SPE Customers and Fans !

As you may be aware, Expert Amps USA is the new US Authorized Reseller and Support agent for SPE Expert Amplifiers.

I understand that they have concluded their agreement and will begin placing customer orders for the New SPE Expert 2K-FA and 1K-FA in the next few days ahead, and before SPE Italy goes on Summer Holiday for a few weeks beginning next week and August 1.

I further understand that there are SPE Expert 2K-FA options for:
-Vacuum Relay QSK Full Break-in
-Remote Automatic Antenna Tuner

If you may be interested in the possibility of a future software update for MARS frequency support, please discuss with Expert Amps USA.

If you have any further questions or may wish to place your order in this batch to get into queue for delivery, please contact Expert Amps USA directly:

Charles Frost K5LBU
281-682-6093
expertampsusa@...

73,

Dennis
N3DG

945. Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-25 02:12:45 UTC
From: Rick Spiegel
Topic: 944 Message: 945

How low can one get advertising another amp on the Alpha page?

How low can those Italians go?

946. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-25 02:24:51 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 944 Message: 946

Rick,
    I sent Dennis a little note this evening about his "advertising" on this group and how it is unacceptable. Any more messages like that, and he will be removed immediately.

73,
Mike
W4MJA

Alpha 87A Group Owner

From: Rick Spiegel <rickspiegel@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 10:12 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

How low can one get advertising another amp on the Alpha page?

How low can those Italians go?

947. FOR SALE: RARE ALPHA 6 50 MHz 2 KW 6 METER HAM RADIO AMPLIFIER

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-07-25 02:37:00 UTC
From: n3dg
Topic: 928 Message: 947

Alpha 6 is a Custom-Built, Very Limited Edition 6 Meter Amplifier conservatively rated at 1500++ Watts Output Continuous 100% Duty Cycle on 50-54 MHz tunable up to 2 KW (LED Wattmeter Scale up to 2500 Watts), made by Alpha Power as a Custom Order and Very Limited Edition using a Single, Robust 4CX1600B (Svetlana GU-91B) which is very affordable and readily available. Only 10-20 Watts drive delivers 1 KW Output and that is 100% Continuous Duty Cycle (unlike solid-state amplifiers).

Alpha 6 Features:
☐ Single 4CX1600B Ceramic-Metal Tetrode providing a maximum plate dissipation of over 1.6 KW
☐ Supports the Entire 6 meter Amateur Radio Band 50 MHz ☐ 54 MHz
☐ Comfortably delivers Full Legal Limit on the 6 meter band in All modes
☐ Hypersil 3.5 KVA transformer
☐ Grid & Screen Current Limiting Protection
☐ Protection Circuit for Excessive SWR, Average Plate Current, RF Arc, Mistuning, HV Fault, HV Crowbar, Power Interlock, etc.
☐ Supports 90-130 Volts AC, 190-250 Volts AC, now wired for 220 Volts AC
☐ No Duty Cycle Limitation ☐ 100% Carrier, Key Down with included optional Cooling Fan
☐ Rugged Construction ☐ Built like a Tank
☐ Alpha Collector's Item and Serial Number 2

This Alpha 6 is in Mint Condition with the Optional Auxiliary Cooling Fan, Original Alpha 6 Owners Manual and both Alpha Cartons for Amplifier and Transformer (shipped separately) and has just been sitting on the shelf rarely used and as Collector's Item as Serial Number 2. Alpha now charges over $4600 for their Alpha 8406 which is of the same design, this Alpha 6 is a Collector's Item and Serial Number 2 and Mint at $3250 plus shipping and insurance or Cash & Carry.

948. Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-09 14:12:44 UTC
From: Tadej
Topic: 948 Message: 948

I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.

http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/

73s Tadej S52X

949. Alpha 87 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-09 14:58:21 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 948 Message: 949

My 87 has recently started a odd behavior. I leave the 220 disconnected unless I am going to use it. When I hit the power on switch it powers up for about a second then shuts back off. Try ir again and it stays on a bit longer. After 4 or 5 tries it powers on normally. It seems if I leave the 220 connected all the time it does not do this,

Have you ever seen this behavior and any ideas where to look for a fix

Al K3TKJ

950. RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter August 2011

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-11 21:03:24 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 950 Message: 950

Hello Group,

the new edition of Alpha newspaper is online. Gordon wrote a very useful article about Virtual COM ports. It is useful also for non Alpha stuff.

73s,
--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

951. Re: [Alpha87a] RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers Monthly newsletter August 2011

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-11 21:17:52 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 950 Message: 951

It was a very informative article. Thankyou Gordon.

I look forward to receiving the Alpha newsletter, because it usually has some good useful information.

Dale, K9VUJ

On 11, Aug 2011, at 16:03, Tadej Arcon wrote:

> Hello Group,
>
> the new edition of Alpha newspaper is online. Gordon wrote a very
> useful article about Virtual COM ports. It is useful also for non
> Alpha stuff.
>
> 73s,
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

952. Re: Alpha 87 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-12 21:14:10 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 948 Message: 952

if you connect to the remote software via RS-232 and plug it in but do not power it up you will be able to read the most recent faults., that should give you a good starting point to see why it powers down

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Al Waller <k3tkj@...> wrote:
>
> My 87 has recently started a odd behavior. I leave the 220 disconnected
> unless I am going to use it. When I hit the power on switch it powers up
> for about a second then shuts back off. Try ir again and it stays on a
> bit longer. After 4 or 5 tries it powers on normally. It seems if I
> leave the 220 connected all the time it does not do this,
>
> Have you ever seen this behavior and any ideas where to look for a fix
>
> Al K3TKJ
>

953. Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-20 15:38:21 UTC
From: ray.higgins10
Topic: 944 Message: 953

Why wait to remove him ? The expert gang are not highly thought of in the amateur brotherhood . 73 Ray KC1MR
--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Michael Almeter <w4mja@...> wrote:
>
> Rick,
> I sent Dennis a little note this evening about his "advertising" on this group and how it is unacceptable. Any more messages like that, and he will be removed immediately.
>
> 73,
> Mike
> W4MJA
>
> Alpha 87A Group Owner
>
> _____
> From: Rick Spiegel rickspiegel@...
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 10:12 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers
>
>
>
> How low can one get advertising another amp on the Alpha page?
>
> How low can those Italians go?
>
>
>

954. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-20 15:46:52 UTC
From: Michael Almeter
Topic: 944 Message: 954

Ray,
    Due to a further incident, Dennis was removed.

73,
Mike
W4MJA

_____
From: ray.higgins10 <ray.higgins10@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2011 11:38 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Why wait to remove him ? The expert gang are not highly thought of in
the amateur brotherhood . 73 Ray KC1MR
--- In Alpha87a@...m, Michael Almeter <w4mja@...> wrote:
>
> Rick,
> I sent Dennis a little note this evening about his "advertising"
on this group and how it is unacceptable. Any more messages like that,
and he will be removed immediately.
>
> 73,
> Mike
> W4MJA
>
> Alpha 87A Group Owner
>
> _____
> From: Rick Spiegel rickspiegel@...
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 10:12 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers
>
>
>
> How low can one get advertising another amp on the Alpha page?
>
> How low can those Italians go?
>
>
>

955. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-20 19:29:25 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 944 Message: 955

Good ... ALPHA Rules !!!

On Sat, Aug 20, 2011 at 9:46 AM, Michael Almeter <w4mja@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Ray,
> Due to a further incident, Dennis was removed.
>
> 73,
> Mike
> W4MJA
> ---
> *From:* ray.higgins10 <ray.higgins10@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Sent:* Saturday, August 20, 2011 11:38 AM
>
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers
>
>
> Why wait to remove him ? The expert gang are not highly thought of in
> the amateur brotherhood . 73 Ray KC1MR
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Michael Almeter <w4mja@...> wrote:
> >
> > Rick,
> > I sent Dennis a little note this evening about his "advertising"
> on this group and how it is unacceptable. Any more messages like that,
> and he will be removed immediately.
> >
> > 73,
> > Mike
> > W4MJA
> >
> > Alpha 87A Group Owner
> >
> > _____
> > From: Rick Spiegel rickspiegel@...
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2011 10:12 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers
> >
> >
> >
> > How low can one get advertising another amp on the Alpha page?

> >
> > How low can those Italians go?
> >
> >
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>
>
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
http://www.k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC http://www.w5rrr.org

956. Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-21 08:34:05 UTC
From: dodgy_dxer
Topic: 944 Message: 956

I would not be too complacent!

I own 4 Alphas and 2 SPE 1Ks as well as a few other miscellaneous amps

My plan was to replace the 87A with a 9500

Then I saw the SPE 2K in action. Including 6m is a big plus.

Yes SPE started with a none too good reputation but the two 1-Ks I have are late production and have not missed a beat in over 12 months

Just a few facts to temper the cheer leaders.

73 Fred
A65BD - G4BWP

--- In Alpha87a@...m, Thomas Smith <ka5cdj@...> wrote:
>
> Good ... ALPHA Rules !!!
>

957. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-21 11:04:32 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 944 Message: 957

> Yes SPE started with a none too good reputation but the two 1-Ks I have are late production and have not missed a beat in over 12 months Just a few facts to temper the cheer leaders.

I've had a SPE 1K for almost two years and it's been perfectly reliable. My only criticism is that output power changes with PA deck temperature. This seems to be a common anomaly among solid-state amps. A slow-speed ALC loop could monitor this condition and correct for it. These changes would not affect RF envelope dynamics.

The amp seems a bit stressed in moderate to high duty-cycle modes. For me it's been fine for SSB, but in CW, the fans are running "full tilt" about three minutes into a QSO.

If I had to own just one amp, it would not be solid-state. I like the 1K for it's portability and small size, but it's no "brick on the key amp." Not by a long shot. Before considering the SPE 2K, I would want to know more about the effect of temperature on output power, as well as noise level a few minutes into a QSO during high duty-cycle modes.

Paul, W9AC

958. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: SPE Expert Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-22 06:15:07 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 944 Message: 958

Hi,

I saw SPE 2K 2400W output key down for a second or two, but after that the output droop to about 1kW. I saw that last year in Friedrischafen and the factory owner explain that this is software limited power output. Probably can be used at full legal limit in cw/ssb, but not in rtty.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/8/21 Paul Christensen <w9ac@...>

> **
>
>
> **
> > Yes SPE started with a none too good reputation but the two 1-Ks I have
> are late production and have not missed a beat in over 12 months Just a few
> facts to temper the cheer leaders.
>
> I've had a SPE 1K for almost two years and it's been perfectly reliable.
> My only criticism is that output power changes with PA deck temperature.
> This seems to be a common anomaly among solid-state amps. A
> slow-speed ALC loop could monitor this condition and correct for it. These
> changes would not affect RF envelope dynamics.
>
> The amp seems a bit stressed in moderate to high duty-cycle modes. For me
> it's been fine for SSB, but in CW, the fans are running "full tilt" about
> three minutes into a QSO.
>
> If I had to own just one amp, it would not be solid-state. I like the 1K
> for it's portability and small size, but it's no "brick on the key amp."
> Not by a long shot. Before considering the SPE 2K, I would want to know
> more about the effect of temperature on output power, as well as noise level
> a few minutes into a QSO during high duty-cycle modes.
>
> Paul, W9AC
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

959. Blower Replacement Procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-27 15:40:51 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 959 Message: 959

I am in the process of replacing the blower with a new one. Whoever estimated total time at 4 hours is about right. I am now at the stage where I'm putting the tube deck back together. I am about to solder the white wire back in place through the hole in the input match board. On the board directly under the tube deck (ie. where the tube sockets are I notice that there is now no two prong jumper attached at J5, but that there is a red two pronger not plugged in any place. I'm wondering if it became disconnected during the procedure?

Rick VE9HF

960. Auto Band Change and Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-28 14:32:34 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 960 Message: 960

One of the 20A fuses in the back of my 87A blew earlier this week. I had accidentally TXed on 18 mhz onto a 160 inverted L. Now the amp won't do automatic band changes. When I try to do an auto band change, the Fault and Plate lights come on. The log indicates Fault 17. Any idea what might be causing this state of affairs?

Rick VE9HF

962. Re: [Alpha87a] NICE ALPHA DAS $300 SHIPPED IN NA

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-30 12:21:38 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 961 Message: 962

What external antenna switch were you using with this ???

On Tue, Aug 30, 2011 at 4:42 AM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> I have a DAS listed on Ebay that I'll sell for $300 shipped to Canada or
> the US. See auction number: 130569084274. It comes with the No Questions
> Asked VE9HF Money Back Guarantee. Rick VE9HF
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
http://www.k5elp.com
Past Member JSCARC http://www.w5rrr.org

963. Re: Auto Band Change and Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-08-31 10:26:39 UTC
From: vk3ft
Topic: 960 Message: 963

Hi Rick,

I had problems with Fault 17 and in my search I came across this advice:-

""The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the appropriate level of output.

If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from Alpha if you need them.

If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output wattmeters.

Here are some tests.

1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with the amplifier.

2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

3) On the PC, type EXT ON.

4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

73 - Glenn AE0Q""

As it happens my fault was brought about because I had mis-connected a cable after doing the Alphamax update and cleaning connectors after experiencing a fault 20. Good luck.

regards Keith VK3FT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve9hf" <ve9hf@...> wrote:
>
> One of the 20A fuses in the back of my 87A blew earlier this week. I had accidentally TXed on 18 mhz onto a 160 inverted L. Now the amp won't do automatic band changes. When I try to do an auto band change, the Fault and Plate lights come on. The log indicates Fault 17. Any idea what might be causing this state of affairs?
>
> Rick VE9HF
>

964. Re: Auto Band Change and Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-01 14:24:38 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 960 Message: 964

I checked this on my alpha and found a 10% difference, with 100w from the exciter showing 90w in and 100w out on the Alpha 87A using the GPIO function. SInce most accurate powermeters are good only to 5%, I figure not too bad and I prefer to be more accurate on the output side hihi

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "vk3ft" <vk3ft@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Rick,
>
> I had problems with Fault 17 and in my search I came across this advice:-
>
> ""The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> appropriate level of output.
>
> If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment
> and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> Alpha if you need them.
>
> If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed
> diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output
> wattmeters.
>
> Here are some tests.
>
> 1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with
> the amplifier.
>
> 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w
> from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).
>
> 3) On the PC, type EXT ON.
>
> 4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command
> reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each
> time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w
> output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the
> wattmeter diodes are damaged.
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q""
>
> As it happens my fault was brought about because I had mis-connected a cable after doing

the Alphamax update and cleaning connectors after experiencing a fault 20. Good luck.
>
> regards Keith VK3FT
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve9hf" <ve9hf@> wrote:
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> >
> > Rick VE9HF
> >
>

965. Re: Auto Band Change and Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-01 14:43:50 UTC
From: vk3ft
Topic: 960 Message: 965

Hi Jerry,

Mine was much the same and Alpha advised me that it was fine considering it was a 1993 model.

regards Keith VK3FT.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> I checked this on my alpha and found a 10% difference, with 100w from the exciter showing 90w in and 100w out on the Alpha 87A using the GPIO function. SInce most accurate powermeters are good only to 5%, I figure not too bad and I prefer to be more accurate on the output side hihi
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> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "vk3ft" <vk3ft@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi Rick,
> >
> > I had problems with Fault 17 and in my search I came across this advice:-
> >
> > ""The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. Does it happen on all
> > bands, or just one band? It means that there is drive but not the
> > appropriate level of output.
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> > If on just one band, it is usually the bandswitch position adjustment
> > and that can be tweaked at your QTH, I can send instructions from
> > Alpha if you need them.
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> > If Fault 17 is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed
> > diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output
> > wattmeters.
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> > the amplifier.
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> > 2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w
> > from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).
> >
> > 3) On the PC, type EXT ON.
> >
> > 4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command

> > reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each
> > time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w
> > output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the
> > wattmeter diodes are damaged.
> >
> > 73 - Glenn AE0Q""
> >
> > As it happens my fault was brought about because I had mis-connected a cable after doing the Alphamax update and cleaning connectors after experiencing a fault 20. Good luck.
> >
> > regards Keith VK3FT
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "ve9hf" <ve9hf@> wrote:
> > >
> > > One of the 20A fuses in the back of my 87A blew earlier this week. I had accidentally TXed on 18 mhz onto a 160 inverted L. Now the amp won't do automatic band changes. When I try to do an auto band change, the Fault and Plate lights come on. The log indicates Fault 17. Any idea what might be causing this state of affairs?
> > >
> > > Rick VE9HF
> > >
> >
>

966. Anyone have a DAS manual link?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-08 23:31:40 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 966 Message: 966

Would anyone happen to be able to point me to an online source for an Alpha DAS? Thanks.
Rick VE9HF

967. Re: [Alpha87a] Anyone have a DAS manual link?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-09 06:09:35 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 966 Message: 967

Hi Rick,

I have uploaded in the FILE folder of this groups all what I found online.
On Youtube we have uploaded the W4ETO video of DAS.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPw5Sk5_UEI

73s Tadej S52X

2011/9/9 ve9hf <ve9hf@rac.ca>

> **
>
>
> Would anyone happen to be able to point me to an online source for an Alpha
> DAS? Thanks. Rick VE9HF
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

968. Re: [Alpha87a] Anyone have a DAS manual link?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-09 14:13:26 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 966 Message: 968

Hi Rick,

I have an original DAS manual, if you'd like it. Happy to mail it to
you. Email is: joe (at) wd0m.com

73

Joe
WD?M
http://www.wd0m.com

On 9/8/2011 5:31 PM, ve9hf wrote:
>
> Would anyone happen to be able to point me to an online source for an
> Alpha DAS? Thanks. Rick VE9HF
>
>

970. Re: Anyone have a DAS manual link?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-09-09 16:37:27 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 966 Message: 970

Thanks Tadej.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Rick,
>
> I have uploaded in the FILE folder of this groups all what I found online.
> On Youtube we have uploaded the W4ETO video of DAS.
>
> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPw5Sk5_UEI
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/9/9 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > Would anyone happen to be able to point me to an online source for an Alpha
> > DAS? Thanks. Rick VE9HF
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

971. Fwd: Unbelievable Trade In Offer From Alpha Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-14 10:46:14 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 971 Message: 971

If anyone do not get it. :)

73s

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here
<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=eka89lcab&v=001EbGq4AQcELQn9yQE0rz3Ng0WjzreVjgbjSuUUc5pkEC63RCND0Du_d4XmQDgNrIZc2GxyD0LWm-2f3LNqCSUNB3sFw961JujbNZighd1P50_y7QwulWXDq5xPdHyVG5aMg4K_YlgpLQ%3D>
We're having a Trade-in, Trade-up program at Alpha Amplifiers

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
and we'll give you an extra large credit towards a brand new Alpha 9500
Autotune Amplifier*.

*We're talking about trading your used amplifier for a WORLD FAMOUS ALPHA
Amplifier
[image: Front view]<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1108117766891&s=2269&e=001SN3p4jD8k_TndvRsWJWLflBh-nc-N2Z-siDeTP4Mo2gfwxdBSCppQUqI5cCDhK4JdT-TpNwhxgmGRIOtzMIGCtbKxV7RwmRWyfM1_33Rmp85ke_mWNvTwA==>
The first 50 people that use ANY amplifier listed below to trade up
to a
world class Alpha 9500 amplifier will get an EXTRA GREAT price for their
trade-in!
Your trade-in is worth MORE THAN EVER! And, it doesn't even have to be an
Alpha! It's time to dump that old amplifier and replace it with the one
you've always wanted. You won't have to say "I should have bought an
Alpha"! Use the generous credit towards a new Alpha 9500!

CHECK OUT THE TRADE IN VALUES: *

Alpha 76 was worth a $1200 credit, and now it's $2,000 towards an Alpha 9500

Alpha 78 was worth a $1200 credit, and now it's $2,000 towards an Alpha 9500

Alpha 86 was worth a $2,500 credit, and now it's worth $3,300 towards an
Alpha 9500

Alpha 87a was worth a $3,500 credit, and now it's worth $4,300 towards an
Alpha 9500

Alpha 89 was worth a $2,800 credit, and now it's worth $3,600 towards an
Alpha 9500

Alpha 91b was worth a $2,300 credit, and now it's worth $3,100 towards an
Alpha 9500

Alpha 99 was worth a $2,600 credit, and now it's worth $3,400 towards an
Alpha 9500

*Credit amount listed above assumes that the tube(s) are not damaged, and the amplifier has not suffered a lightning strike. We'll fix a broken amplifier.

*** AND HERE'S THE BIG ONE ***

Any AMERITRON amplifier, DEAD or alive, is worth $750 towards the purchase of an Alpha 8410, or $1000 towards the purchase of a Alpha 9500

AND FOR THE NEXT 50 ORDERS, SHIPPING IS FREE!

Why are we doing this?

*IT'S CONTEST SEASON AND WE WANT EVERYONE TO RUN AN ALPHA! *
Call the office at 303-473-9232 and speak to Molly or Pam. Keep them really, really busy!

Forward email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1108117766891>

<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=un&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT&t=001ZlSiPKw_ysMFZ5jvl9nL6g%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>
<http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_OFR_005>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by info@... |
Update Profile/Email Address<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=oo&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT&t=001ZlSiPKw_ysMFZ5jvl9nL6g%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>
| Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=un&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT&t=001ZlSiPKw_ysMFZ5jvl9nL6g%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers | 634 S. Sunset | Longmont | CO | 80501

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

972. Alpha DAS and 4510 Wattmeter

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-14 15:30:26 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 972 Message: 972

I traded my 87A for a new 9500. I have a couple items surplus to my needs with the 9500 - a 4510 wattmeter and an ETO Digital Antenna Switch (DAS) with companion antenna switch box. Contact me offline. Items will be listed on eHam and Ebay soon.

73

Jim
K7EG

973. Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-14 18:00:18 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 973 Message: 973

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Alpha Amplifiers / RF Concepts <info@...>
Date: 2011/10/14
Subject: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifiers
To: tadej.arcon@...

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here
<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=eka89lcab&v=001qNpDsySIaEIHOHTGLIEL3mMhO2fMyh18icLDdf-ysihdloOkWIwoJpB2RPmvPJennqvr0Dec5cc3MmjzzQV7lWLpXX4-VrYc0O5cWcBkrgccHipw3jbN8grZyGtgX8QabMcklMEw8Us%3D>
*We thought of one more thing - *

If you tell your friend about our Trade-in, Trade-up program, and he or she ends up taking advantage of our program, we'll send BOTH of you a beautiful jacket with our logo and your call letters embroidered on it. If you've seen the quality of the hat's we've been giving away as gifts, you'll know what to expect. They're really nice looking jackets, and this is a small way to say "thanks" for the referral.

As of 11:00 am on 10/14/2011 there are 38 spots of the original 50 left, so if you're going to use our Trade-in program to get up to $800 in ADDITIONAL credit towards a 9500, this is the time!

[image: Front view]<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1108117510533&s=2269&e=001y2QmEwSRQb0__ZWIJ4Vb05azUT3jyt1fbb68wV6-niaJvbJUHD6ZJJiRfMSHZ51TNbB8PfpL7mSrEDCZHPAX-NA_n9cZzgJUTiRQIaT2q_wNuKW2gzxwDg==>
Here's
a link to the Trade-in program. If your friend wants to see the original email, have him click
HERE<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&et=1108117510533&s=2269&e=001y2QmEwSRQb1T9HduYa6oQQeTYFrHXOzUsIn8wr0Zstd9viuU1DAie0RSDq-h6GbIgzudqyVJTBnxuhhV1JIIFuZa8csMNagbeT1Q4nWbwRMiiEpYGviu6j-8LsyO7sJsMLLlKInw9KnJsEpA0KROezuo5GL-CKlXTlONHGU749HNGQrf9c7z90_htukAasfrWO1dIqfpdQ0=>
When they're ready to go, you can have them call the office at 303-473-9232
and speak to Molly or Pam.

Forward
email<http://ui.constantcontact.com/sa/fwtf.jsp?llr=eka89lcab&m=1102056358212&ea=tadej.arcon%40gmail.com&a=1108117510533>

<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=un&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT&t=0011yNeC-Wd146jxhviCdJ_tw%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>
<http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?cc=TEM_OFR_005>
This email was sent to tadej.arcon@... by info@... |
Update Profile/Email
Address<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=oo&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT

&t=0011yNeC-Wd146jxhviCdJ_tw%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>
| Instant removal with
SafeUnsubscribe<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/do?p=un&mse=001Cz2gV83Vs3qjq6pEFozWlerDJJSwMuaT&t=0011yNeC-Wd146jxhviCdJ_tw%3D%3D&llr=eka89lcab>™
| Privacy Policy <http://ui.constantcontact.com/roving/CCPrivacyPolicy.jsp>.
RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers | 634 S. Sunset | Longmont | CO | 80501

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

974. Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-16 16:57:44 UTC
From: Ed Privette
Topic: 973 Message: 974

Here is what bothers me about this offer. I have an 87A, lightly used for about 8 years. It takes < 40 watts to drive it to 1500w on 40-10 on a SteppIR 3 el. If I ship it in and the tubes fail their test I'm stuck with shipping x 2.
I'd like to hear from someone thats actually taken this deal. Also I think I'll ask Molly if I can send the tubes in for approval BEFORE sending in the amp. I have been an owner since Brooksville, Fl The amp is my 6th Alpha and 2d 87A and it's as clean as a new one. My first thought is "if it ain't broke don't fix it" but
..... my Prius needs trading in too and it still works great!
73, Ed W4EP

975. Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifiers

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-16 18:44:14 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 975 Message: 975

Hello Ed

I am one who took the deal. My 87A also runs good. It was built in the mid 90's. I traded up because:

1. I didn't think I could do better than $4300 in a private deal.

2. 87A is out of warranty. I get a 4 yr warranty with the 9500 - I year on tube.

3. 8877 replacement cost is less than replacing 87A tubes

4. I am more comfortable with vacuum relays than pin diode switching.

5. 9500 integrates switching 4 antennas

6. Integrated wattmeter

7. Better led metering

Etc etc. I probably won't make many more Q's with it but am comfortable with the trade. We each must decide what is important.

73

Jim

K7EG

976. Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifier

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-17 17:31:07 UTC
From: Ed Privette
Topic: 976 Message: 976

I appreciate your remrks Jim. My motivation is the same as yours.
Start from new, all the bells and whiles, 3CX800A7s are a continuing
worry at half the Amps value.

I also emailed Molly and she told me basically if the tubes put out
1500w they are good to go. She is concerned about shorted tubes mostly.

It's going to be awhile. $1000 deposit and wait for a ship call from them.

So maybe that helps someone else as well.

73, Ed W4EP

977. Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifier

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-23 16:26:51 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 976 Message: 977

Ed

I received the 9500 and am very happy with it despite problems with remote software (minor issue). My 87A is on its way back to RFConcepts to complete trade-in deal. Trade-in deal ended on Oct 20. You were smart to get an order in before the cutoff.

Best wishes - Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Ed Privette <ed@...> wrote:
>
> I appreciate your remrks Jim. My motivation is the same as yours.
> Start from new, all the bells and whiles, 3CX800A7s are a continuing
> worry at half the Amps value.
>
> I also emailed Molly and she told me basically if the tubes put out
> 1500w they are good to go. She is concerned about shorted tubes mostly.
>
> It's going to be awhile. $1000 deposit and wait for a ship call from them.
>
> So maybe that helps someone else as well.
>
> 73, Ed W4EP
>

978. ETO Digital Antenna Selector for 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-23 16:31:24 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 978 Message: 978

Having traded my 87A, I still have an ETO DAS (Digital Antenne Selector) with a companion Top Ten six wayrelay box which are surplus to my needs. I will sell them together or separately. Contact me off list for details. Jim K7EG

979. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifier

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-23 21:48:24 UTC
From: Harry Williams
Topic: 976 Message: 979

What kind of issues with remote software? I depend on the remote software.....

73,
Harry
W0LS

-----Original Message-----
From: k7eg
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifier

Ed

I received the 9500 and am very happy with it despite problems with remote software (minor issue). My 87A is on its way back to RFConcepts to complete trade-in deal. Trade-in deal ended on Oct 20. You were smart to get an order in before the cutoff.

Best wishes - Jim K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Ed Privette <ed@...> wrote:
>
> I appreciate your remrks Jim. My motivation is the same as yours.
> Start from new, all the bells and whiles, 3CX800A7s are a continuing
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>
> I also emailed Molly and she told me basically if the tubes put out
> 1500w they are good to go. She is concerned about shorted tubes mostly.
>
> It's going to be awhile. $1000 deposit and wait for a ship call from them.
>
> So maybe that helps someone else as well.
>
> 73, Ed W4EP
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

980. Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at Alpha Amplifier

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-10-23 22:05:33 UTC
From: k7eg
Topic: 976 Message: 980

Harry

No issues with remote software for 87A. I am having difficulty with 9500 remote software and my pc(see Alpha9500 reflector for details). It probably is an issue with my config as other people are using 9500 remote software. The short answer is pc recognizing 9500.

Jim
K7EG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Harry Williams <willisw200@...> wrote:
>
> What kind of issues with remote software? I depend on the remote
> software.....
>
> 73,
> Harry
> W0LS
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: k7eg
> Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:26 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fwd: One more thing about the Trade in offer at
> Alpha Amplifier
>
> Ed
>
> I received the 9500 and am very happy with it despite problems with remote
> software (minor issue). My 87A is on its way back to RFConcepts to complete
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> Best wishes - Jim K7EG
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>
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> >

> > So maybe that helps someone else as well.
> >
> > 73, Ed W4EP
> >
>
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

981. how much ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 03:38:45 UTC
From: boloc442
Topic: 981 Message: 981

can any one tell me the going rate for a refurbished alpha 87a with alpha max thanks John

982. test

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 03:39:29 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 982 Message: 982

test

983. Re: [Alpha87a] how much ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 08:33:00 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 981 Message: 983

Check with Alpha, they always have a few referbs for sale. Price varies.

Dale

On 13, Nov 2011, at 21:38, boloc442 wrote:

> can any one tell me the going rate for a refurbished alpha 87a with alpha max thanks John
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

984. Fault 22 Alpha 97A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 08:55:09 UTC
From: Clive
Topic: 984 Message: 984

Hi, I wonder if anyone has experience of fault 22 on an Alpha 87A

I am trying to repair one and if I start the amplifier the Soft Start fuse blows and I get a report of Fault 22.

The fuse does not blow if I remove the HT connection from the transformer to J1 on the High voltage Power Supply board but of course the amplifier still does not start!.

Any advice would be most welcome.

73 Clive GW0PPO

985. RE: [Alpha87a] how much ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 12:41:25 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 981 Message: 985

Check out http://www.rfconcepts.com/PRODUCTS/Promotional-Items_3 RF Concepts is using HRO to handle sales of used amplifiers now.

Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Check with Alpha, they always have a few referbs for sale. Price varies.

Dale

On 13, Nov 2011, at 21:38, boloc442 wrote:

> can any one tell me the going rate for a refurbished alpha 87a with alpha max thanks John

986. Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 19:02:58 UTC
From: JAMES
Topic: 986 Message: 986

Hello
Does anyone know were I can get a copy of a das manual please let me know thanks Jim

987. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 19:27:15 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 986 Message: 987

Hi Jim,

all I have found is one this group under Files->Alpha DAS.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%20DAS/

73s Tadej S52X

2011/11/14 JAMES <radiogear1@...>

> **
>
>
> Hello
> Does anyone know were I can get a copy of a das manual please let me know
> thanks Jim
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

988. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 22 Alpha 97A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 20:22:18 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 984 Message: 988

Try to remove HV from tubes, maybe you have just a bad tube.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/11/14 Clive <clivejenner@...>

> **
>
>
> Hi, I wonder if anyone has experience of fault 22 on an Alpha 87A
>
> I am trying to repair one and if I start the amplifier the Soft Start fuse
> blows and I get a report of Fault 22.
>
> The fuse does not blow if I remove the HT connection from the transformer
> to J1 on the High voltage Power Supply board but of course the ampli still
> does not start!.
>
> Any advice would be most welcome.
>
> 73 Clive GW0PPO
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

989. Re: Fault 22 Alpha 97A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 20:29:17 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 984 Message: 989

CAUTION: HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT INSIDE THE AMP. DISCONNECT THE AMP FROM THE AC MAINS BEFORE REMOVING THE COVER. REPLACE THE COVER OR DEFEAT BOTH INTERLOCKS BEFORE APPLYING AC TO TEST.

The most likely cause is a short in one of the tubes. Try removing the tubes and see if the step start fuse blows. If not, replace the tubes one at a time to isolate the bad one. If the fuse still blows with the tubes removed, my guess is that there's a short on the HV board.

My reasoning: As I read the schematics, when the step-start fuse blows, there has to be a short in the plate circuit or on the HV board itself. I don't believe a short on the LV board, which is fed +/- 36V from the HV board, or in the cathode bias circuit can cause the step start fuse to blow (there's a 10-ohm resisteor in the cathode bias path.) I could be wrong about that, so if the fuse blows with the tubes removed, disconnecting J4 (+/-36V from HV board to LV board. If that doesn't stop the fuse from blowing, disconnect J5 (cathode bias circuit.)

Why fault 22? My guess is that the fault code is bogus. When the short occurs, there's a momentary drop in line voltage before the fuse blows, and that's causing power to the CPU to drop below +5V and that causes the the firmware to think its D/A converter is broken. It stores a bad fault code in its last dying gasp.

I saw this happen when I installed a faulty tube that was leaking. I got random fault codes early on, then as the arcs got bigger and bigger, I got other confusing faults. I went so far as to start disassembling the HV and LV board trying to find the short. Finally, the arc got so powerful that the step-start fuse blew and I figured out what was going on. Again, the fault codes had nothing to do with the problem.

Hope this helps. Let us know what you find.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clive" <clivejenner@...> wrote:
>
> Hi, I wonder if anyone has experience of fault 22 on an Alpha 87A
>
> I am trying to repair one and if I start the amplifier the Soft Start fuse blows and I get a report of Fault 22.
>
> The fuse does not blow if I remove the HT connection from the transformer to J1 on the High voltage Power Supply board but of course the amplifier still does not start!.
>
> Any advice would be most welcome.
>
> 73 Clive GW0PPO
>

990. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 22 Alpha 97A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 20:49:21 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 984 Message: 990

If you remove the tubes you should get the fault 18. Other Dick`s observation are OK.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/11/14 dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>

> **
>
>
> CAUTION: HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT INSIDE THE AMP. DISCONNECT THE AMP FROM
> THE AC MAINS BEFORE REMOVING THE COVER. REPLACE THE COVER OR DEFEAT BOTH
> INTERLOCKS BEFORE APPLYING AC TO TEST.
>
> The most likely cause is a short in one of the tubes. Try removing the
> tubes and see if the step start fuse blows. If not, replace the tubes one
> at a time to isolate the bad one. If the fuse still blows with the tubes
> removed, my guess is that there's a short on the HV board.
>
> My reasoning: As I read the schematics, when the step-start fuse blows,
> there has to be a short in the plate circuit or on the HV board itself. I
> don't believe a short on the LV board, which is fed +/- 36V from the HV
> board, or in the cathode bias circuit can cause the step start fuse to blow
> (there's a 10-ohm resisteor in the cathode bias path.) I could be wrong
> about that, so if the fuse blows with the tubes removed, disconnecting J4
> (+/-36V from HV board to LV board. If that doesn't stop the fuse from
> blowing, disconnect J5 (cathode bias circuit.)
>
> Why fault 22? My guess is that the fault code is bogus. When the short
> occurs, there's a momentary drop in line voltage before the fuse blows, and
> that's causing power to the CPU to drop below +5V and that causes the the
> firmware to think its D/A converter is broken. It stores a bad fault code
> in its last dying gasp.
>
> I saw this happen when I installed a faulty tube that was leaking. I got
> random fault codes early on, then as the arcs got bigger and bigger, I got
> other confusing faults. I went so far as to start disassembling the HV and
> LV board trying to find the short. Finally, the arc got so powerful that
> the step-start fuse blew and I figured out what was going on. Again, the
> fault codes had nothing to do with the problem.
>
> Hope this helps. Let us know what you find.
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clive" <clivejenner@...> wrote:
> >

> > Hi, I wonder if anyone has experience of fault 22 on an Alpha 87A
> >
> > I am trying to repair one and if I start the amplifier the Soft Start
> fuse blows and I get a report of Fault 22.
> >
> > The fuse does not blow if I remove the HT connection from the
> transformer to J1 on the High voltage Power Supply board but of course the
> amplifier still does not start!.
> >
> > Any advice would be most welcome.
> >
> > 73 Clive GW0PPO
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

991. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 21:10:51 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 986 Message: 991

On 11/14/2011 2:02 PM, JAMES wrote:
>
> Hello
> Does anyone know were I can get a copy of a das manual please let me
> know thanks Jim
>
>
I am a new alpha owner what the heck is a das manual ? John kb2huk

992. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-14 21:20:09 UTC
From: James Denneny
Topic: 986 Message: 992

Das = ETO digital antenna selector. It is a companion to 87A which auto selects correct antenna for each band as 87A tunes.

By the way, I have a DAS for sale with antenna relay box by TopTen. Price for both $250 plus shipping. Bought a 9500. DAS is surplus to my needs.

Jim

K7EG

993. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-15 08:01:42 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 986 Message: 993

See the Youtube videos about:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Legacy-Products_3
http://www.rfconcepts.com/Legacy-Products_2

2011/11/14 James Denneny <57JNDenneny@...>

> **
>
>
> Das = ETO digital antenna selector. It is a companion to 87A which auto
> selects correct antenna for each band as 87A tunes.****
>
> ** **
>
> By the way, I have a DAS for sale with antenna relay box by TopTen. Price
> for both $250 plus shipping. Bought a 9500. DAS is surplus to my needs.*
> ***
>
> ** **
>
> Jim****
>
> K7EG****
>
> ** **
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

994. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a das manual

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-15 13:21:26 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 986 Message: 994

Can you send me some pictures of the das and relay box thanks Jim

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 14, 2011, at 4:20 PM, "James Denneny" <57JNDenneny@comcast.net> wrote:

> Das = ETO digital antenna selector. It is a companion to 87A which auto selects correct antenna for each band as 87A tunes.
>
>
>
> By the way, I have a DAS for sale with antenna relay box by TopTen. Price for both $250 plus shipping. Bought a 9500. DAS is surplus to my needs.
>
>
>
> Jim
>
> K7EG
>
>
>
>

995. Test

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-15 18:22:56 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 995 Message: 995

My post do not seem to show up for some reason - just testing.

Bob W6VY

996. Re: Fault 22 Alpha 97A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-15 18:39:36 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 984 Message: 996

My memory about this is vague, but I believe you won't get the fault 18 until after the 3 minute warmup completes. However, you don't have to let the amp complete warmup (and I wouldn't.) As I understand the original post, the step-start fuse blows immediately when the amp is turned on. The object of removing the tubes is to determine if the fuse still blows immediately. If the fuse doesn't blow and the amp begins warmup, you know one of the tubes is bad and you can shut off the amp before the warmup completes. Even if you get the fault 18 immediately, but the fuse doesn't blow, you will know one of the tubes is bad.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> If you remove the tubes you should get the fault 18. Other Dick`s
> observation are OK.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/11/14 dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > CAUTION: HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT INSIDE THE AMP. DISCONNECT THE AMP FROM
> > THE AC MAINS BEFORE REMOVING THE COVER. REPLACE THE COVER OR DEFEAT BOTH
> > INTERLOCKS BEFORE APPLYING AC TO TEST.
> >
> > The most likely cause is a short in one of the tubes. Try removing the
> > tubes and see if the step start fuse blows. If not, replace the tubes one
> > at a time to isolate the bad one. If the fuse still blows with the tubes
> > removed, my guess is that there's a short on the HV board.
> >
> > My reasoning: As I read the schematics, when the step-start fuse blows,
> > there has to be a short in the plate circuit or on the HV board itself. I
> > don't believe a short on the LV board, which is fed +/- 36V from the HV
> > board, or in the cathode bias circuit can cause the step start fuse to blow
> > (there's a 10-ohm resisteor in the cathode bias path.) I could be wrong
> > about that, so if the fuse blows with the tubes removed, disconnecting J4
> > (+/-36V from HV board to LV board. If that doesn't stop the fuse from
> > blowing, disconnect J5 (cathode bias circuit.)
> >
> > Why fault 22? My guess is that the fault code is bogus. When the short
> > occurs, there's a momentary drop in line voltage before the fuse blows, and
> > that's causing power to the CPU to drop below +5V and that causes the the
> > firmware to think its D/A converter is broken. It stores a bad fault code
> > in its last dying gasp.

> >
> > I saw this happen when I installed a faulty tube that was leaking. I got
> > random fault codes early on, then as the arcs got bigger and bigger, I got
> > other confusing faults. I went so far as to start disassembling the HV and
> > LV board trying to find the short. Finally, the arc got so powerful that
> > the step-start fuse blew and I figured out what was going on. Again, the
> > fault codes had nothing to do with the problem.
> >
> > Hope this helps. Let us know what you find.
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clive" <clivejenner@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hi, I wonder if anyone has experience of fault 22 on an Alpha 87A
> > >
> > > I am trying to repair one and if I start the amplifier the Soft Start
> > fuse blows and I get a report of Fault 22.
> > >
> > > The fuse does not blow if I remove the HT connection from the
> > transformer to J1 on the High voltage Power Supply board but of course the
> > amplifier still does not start!.
> > >
> > > Any advice would be most welcome.
> > >
> > > 73 Clive GW0PPO
> > >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

997. Re: Fault 22 Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-16 15:21:37 UTC
From: Clive Jenner
Topic: 997 Message: 997

Hi everyone. Thanks to those who answered my request for information on Fault 22.

I will check out the suggestions in the next day or two.

73 Clive GW0PPO

998. power settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-23 09:02:27 UTC
From: boloc442
Topic: 998 Message: 998

Hi I am new to the alpha 87a . I scanned the manual and could not find a reference to setting power settings can you help ? I assumed that after the amp tunes a band you could just lower the exciter drive to operate at a lesser power output say 500 or 800 watts , is this correct ? what is the correct procedure . thanks John kb2huk

999. Re: [Alpha87a] power settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-23 13:45:12 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 998 Message: 999

Hi John,

the Alpha amps are designed to be used at 1500W out, so if you do not have
any reasonable reason to lower the power just use it at legal limit,
otherwise just reduce the drive, all will be fine.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/11/23 boloc442 <cdistflatfoot@...>

> **
>
>
> Hi I am new to the alpha 87a . I scanned the manual and could not find a
> reference to setting power settings can you help ? I assumed that after the
> amp tunes a band you could just lower the exciter drive to operate at a
> lesser power output say 500 or 800 watts , is this correct ? what is the
> correct procedure . thanks John kb2huk
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1000. Re: power settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-23 18:47:18 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 998 Message: 1000

I use mine at what ever power level I choose. In Rtty I use it on about 1/2 power, and often turn it down too 200 watts or so on 80 meters as my radio gets into my computer at some power levels on 80. AO they have a low/ high switch right on the front of the amp. call alpha and ask them directly, get the real answer. I have been using mine like this for years. never a problem.

As an aside I often turn down the power in a contest specifically to get rid of ESP contacts. I run a 3 element steppir, and with 1000 to 1500 watts in a domestic contest, I can be heard well on the east coast. now if I am talking to a 100 watt station running a 5BTV or a low dipole when they come back to me they are right in the noise, and it takes 20 repeats to get their info. by turning down the power to 600 to 800 watts, I am not so loud, and get mostly stronger stations so my rate actually increases. . I know it sounds counter productive but it works.

tom N6AJR

1001. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: power settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-23 19:15:18 UTC
From: Larry stowell
Topic: 998 Message: 1001

I did call RF to ask about the switch and they told me not to use it, It was a hold over from a FCC
requirement back in the day.

73 Larry K1ZW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of catfishtwo@...
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 1:47 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: power settings

I use mine at what ever power level I choose. In Rtty I use it on about 1/2 power, and often turn
it down too 200 watts or so on 80 meters as my radio gets into my computer at some power levels on
80. AO they have a low/ high switch right on the front of the amp. call alpha and ask them directly, get the real answer. I have been using mine like this for years. never a problem.

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the east coast. now if I am talking to a 100 watt station running a 5BTV or a low dipole when they
come back to me they are right in the noise, and it takes 20 repeats to get their info. by turning
down the power to 600 to 800 watts, I am not so loud, and get mostly stronger stations so my rate
actually increases. . I know it sounds counter productive but it works.

tom N6AJR

1002. Re: Test

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-11-26 11:38:28 UTC
From: w9kb
Topic: 995 Message: 1002

Bob, You are 59... Hope to work on the Geratol net some night from new QTH in Florida. Working on a second Basic.

73
Ken-W9KB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@...> wrote:
>
> My post do not seem to show up for some reason - just testing.
>
> Bob W6VY
>

1003. AlpaMax vs. Manual Tuning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-12-18 21:11:18 UTC
From: k2ue@ymail.com
Topic: 1003 Message: 1003

I have just ordered a refurbed 87A, and am studying the docs on setup. A question arises:

Some of my antennas are more like 2:1 or 3:1 at band edges. It is said in the docs that AlphaMax tunes like an operator would -- does this mean that it will handle SWR's of that magnitude OK, or do I want to be manually tuning in those band segments, or manual tune first, then engage AphaMax?

1004. Re: [Alpha87a] AlpaMax vs. Manual Tuning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-12-18 21:44:21 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1003 Message: 1004

On 12/18/2011 4:11 PM, k2ue@... wrote:
>
> I have just ordered a refurbed 87A, and am studying the docs on setup.
> A question arises:
>
> Some of my antennas are more like 2:1 or 3:1 at band edges. It is said
> in the docs that AlphaMax tunes like an operator would -- does this
> mean that it will handle SWR's of that magnitude OK, or do I want to
> be manually tuning in those band segments, or manual tune first, then
> engage AphaMax?
>
>
I bought one for Christmas last month right from the factory refurbished
let me know how you made out . I am waiting on the electrician to run a
new service and a new 240 to the shack . Good luck and Merry Christmas!

1005. Re: [Alpha87a] AlpaMax vs. Manual Tuning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-12-18 22:45:15 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1003 Message: 1005

AlphaMax will tune your amp and it will be retuned when needed. A bit higher SWR than 1:2 is not a problem, you will have to reduce your drive until the reflected power comes to the safe level.

73s Tadej S52X

2011/12/18 k2ue@... <k2ue@...>

> **
>
>
> I have just ordered a refurbed 87A, and am studying the docs on setup. A
> question arises:
>
> Some of my antennas are more like 2:1 or 3:1 at band edges. It is said in
> the docs that AlphaMax tunes like an operator would -- does this mean that
> it will handle SWR's of that magnitude OK, or do I want to be manually
> tuning in those band segments, or manual tune first, then engage AphaMax?
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1006. Re: [Alpha87a] AlpaMax vs. Manual Tuning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-12-19 00:10:02 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1003 Message: 1006

On 12/18/2011 5:45 PM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
> AlphaMax will tune your amp and it will be retuned when needed. A bit
> higher SWR than 1:2 is not a problem, you will have to reduce your
> drive until the reflected power comes to the safe level.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2011/12/18 k2ue@... <mailto:k2ue@...>
> <k2ue@... <mailto:k2ue@...>>
>
> I have just ordered a refurbed 87A, and am studying the docs on
> setup. A question arises:
>
> Some of my antennas are more like 2:1 or 3:1 at band edges. It is
> said in the docs that AlphaMax tunes like an operator would --
> does this mean that it will handle SWR's of that magnitude OK, or
> do I want to be manually tuning in those band segments, or manual
> tune first, then engage AphaMax?
>
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>
>
What is the "safe level" you refer to ? On youtube I think they say it
will tune with higest swr of between 2:1 and 3:1 search for Alpha 87a
on youtube for several videos showing amp in action. John kb2huk

1007. Re: AlpaMax vs. Manual Tuning

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2011-12-19 21:47:52 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 1003 Message: 1007

on mine, if I am on band edges, I have to turn down the power (and this reduces the output) and then I am good. you will see the reflected power leds go yellow then red, and reduce them into the green and then you are good. I have this problem on 40/80/160. I have a steppir 3 ele for 10/12/15/17/20/ 6 m.. the alpha 87 a is the very best amp I have ever owned. and I use it daily. the only thing I don't like on it is the 3 minute warm up. you will come to hate that 3 minutes that seems like 3 hours, while trying to work some brand new DX. bye the way, currently in the shack there is a als 600, a tl922a, a IC-2KL, and a al 1200. I use the alpha. tom N6AJR

1008. DF3CB Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-02 16:10:02 UTC
From: AITC
Topic: 1008 Message: 1008

Hi I was wondering if anyone has used this software for the 87A. It looks great but would like to know if anyone has used it.

1009. Re: [Alpha87a] DF3CB Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-02 16:27:42 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 1008 Message: 1009

I've beta-tested and use a similar program by Walter, HB9ZS:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

My guess is that they both would do an excellent job. The DF3CB interface is a bit larger and takes up a little more screen real estate.

73

Joe
WD?M

http://wd0m.com

On 1/2/2012 9:10 AM, AlTC wrote:
>
> Hi I was wondering if anyone has used this software for the 87A. It
> looks great but would like to know if anyone has used it.
>
>

1010. RE: [Alpha87a] DF3CB Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-02 18:46:31 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1008 Message: 1010

I prefer the software by HB9ZS. It interfaces with Commander, the rig control module of DXLab, and the 87A follows the radio□s frequency. The 87A tunes to the new rig frequency with the radio transmitting. It also has a terminal communications capability to communicate with the amplifier if that□s needed for troubleshooting.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM
Sent: January 02, 2012 10:28
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] DF3CB Software

I've beta-tested and use a similar program by Walter, HB9ZS:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

My guess is that they both would do an excellent job. The DF3CB interface is a bit larger and takes up a little more screen real estate.

73

Joe
WDØM

http://wd0m.com

On 1/2/2012 9:10 AM, AlTC wrote:

Hi I was wondering if anyone has used this software for the 87A. It looks great but would like to know if anyone has used it.

1011. RE: [Alpha87a] DF3CB Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-02 19:20:05 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1008 Message: 1011

I omitted an important word, which I□ll insert below.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim McDonald

I prefer the software by HB9ZS. It interfaces with Commander, the rig control module of DXLab, and the 87A follows the radio□s frequency. The 87A tunes to the new rig frequency with the radio NOT transmitting. It also has a terminal communications capability to communicate with the amplifier if that□s needed for troubleshooting.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe - WDØM

I've beta-tested and use a similar program by Walter, HB9ZS:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

My guess is that they both would do an excellent job. The DF3CB interface is a bit larger and takes up a little more screen real estate.

73

Joe
WDØM

http://wd0m.com

On 1/2/2012 9:10 AM, AlTC wrote:

Hi I was wondering if anyone has used this software for the 87A. It looks great but would like to know if anyone has used it.

1012. new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-09 14:08:38 UTC
From: boloc442
Topic: 1012 Message: 1012

Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most of the manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in or through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my Palstar AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your time and information. 73s de kb2huk John

1013. Re: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-09 14:28:44 UTC
From: Marco@pe2mc.nl
Topic: 1012 Message: 1013

Hello John

tune after the amplifier is ok.
Before the amplifier is not ok.

That what the mean with the tuner in the manual

Marco
http://www.pe2mc.nl

Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most of
> the manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in
> or through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my
> Palstar AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your
> time and information. 73s de kb2huk John
>
>
>
>

1014. Re: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-09 14:35:41 UTC
From: Harry Williams
Topic: 1012 Message: 1014

Hello John,
I used an AT-Auto tuner with an 87a for about 3 years with no problems at all. I am now using it with the 9500.

73,
Harry
W0LS

-----Original Message-----
From: boloc442
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most of the manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in or through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my Palstar AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your time and information. 73s de kb2huk John

---

Yahoo! Groups Links

1015. Re: new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-09 14:39:27 UTC
From: Clyde Washburn
Topic: 1012 Message: 1015

They are saying you should not have any tuner in your exciter turned on when driving the amp, or passing thru it with the amp in
standby. Nor should a separate tuner be placed ahead of the amp, between it and the exciter. They have a strict 150W limit on the
input and bypass path based on a true 50 ohm load - using a tuner with a high SWR antenna could easily exceed the voltage or current
equivalent to 150W/50 ohms. The correct solution is for all tuners to be after the amp, so that when the amp is in standby (or off)
the power flowing thru it from the exciter is seeing the matched 50 ohm input of the tuner. And tuning of the tuner itself would
want to be done at low power, so that the voltages and currents when you start tuning (and it may be badly mismatched on the input)
are less than 150W equivalent voltage or current. It all makes sense when you consider the condition they are trying to prevent -
excess input voltage or current in the low power input/feedthru path.

Clyde Washburn, K2UE

82 Lasalle Pkwy

Victor, NY 14564-9610

585-317-7006

k2ue@...

1016. RE: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-09 14:52:40 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 1012 Message: 1016

I've run the 87A into couplers (aren't tuners something used in FM stereo reception?) for over ten years. I have the coupler adjusted prior to using the amplifier. I find the adjustments on the coupler don't change with an increase in power. I don't use the transceiver auto-coupler; no need to use it. I think the main risk in using an auto-coupler on the output of the amp, one that has not been adjusted is that if the coupler is hunting while the 87A is also hunting the two units sensors can become confused and take too long to reach optimal adjustments. This scenario will significantly increase tube wear and reduce tube life.

Alpha would do good to write up a short explanation about this concern, esp. since now many new amateurs will be buying up those previously owned 87As and really need to have some clear guidance with the theory behind it explained. Seems when you tell a ham not to do something, they often times will do that thing and in this case it might cost them a lot !

73,

Dave

Wa3gin

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Harry Williams
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Hello John,
I used an AT-Auto tuner with an 87a for about 3 years with no problems at all. I am now using it with the 9500.

73,
Harry
W0LS

-----Original Message-----
From: boloc442
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most of the

manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in or through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my Palstar

AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your time and information. 73s de kb2huk John

---

Yahoo! Groups Links

1017. Re: [Alpha87a] new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-10 02:24:05 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1012 Message: 1017

On 1/9/2012 9:52 AM, David Jordan wrote:
>
> I've run the 87A into couplers (aren't tuners something used in FM
> stereo reception?) for over ten years. I have the coupler adjusted
> prior to using the amplifier. I find the adjustments on the coupler
> don't change with an increase in power. I don't use the transceiver
> auto-coupler; no need to use it. I think the main risk in using an
> auto-coupler on the output of the amp, one that has not been adjusted
> is that if the coupler is hunting while the 87A is also hunting the
> two units sensors can become confused and take too long to reach
> optimal adjustments. This scenario will significantly increase tube
> wear and reduce tube life.
>
> Alpha would do good to write up a short explanation about this
> concern, esp. since now many new amateurs will be buying up those
> previously owned 87As and really need to have some clear guidance with
> the theory behind it explained. Seems when you tell a ham not to do
> something, they often times will do that thing and in this case it
> might cost them a lot !
>
> 73,
>
> Dave
>
> Wa3gin
>
> ---
>
> *From:*Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Harry Williams
> *Sent:* Monday, January 09, 2012 9:36 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] new 87a question
>
>
> Hello John,
> I used an AT-Auto tuner with an 87a for about 3 years with no problems at
> all. I am now using it with the 9500.
>
> 73,
> Harry
> W0LS
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: boloc442

> Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 8:08 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] new 87a question
>
> Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most
> of the
> manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in or
> through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my
> Palstar
> AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your time and
> information. 73s de kb2huk John
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
So based on the responses I have gotten it is OK to use the Palstar auto
tuner after the amp and I will have to place the tuner on manual after
tuning the amp up so the tuner is not hunting for the lowest swr when
the amp and exciter are in Qso. Please correct me if I am wrong .
thanks John Molenda kb2huk

1018. Re: new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-10 20:26:57 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 1012 Message: 1018

I may have been taking chances since 2006 with my Palstar AT-AUTO and 87A but I was more concerned about running my IC-7800 into a high or wildly varying SWR mismatch and blowing its finals (as many, many IC-7800 have done). I always let the AT-AUTO tune pushing only a few watts from my IC-7800 into the 87A (in OPR mode not standby) using a audio "pecker" on SSB outputting then about 50W to the AT-AUTO. The 87A can safely withstand 20-30W reflected power even with a terrible mismatch and the AU-AUTO after 5 years has never complained. I have the most untuned antenna with a 43' vertical and 75 ground radials. With a non-resonant antenna like this, the AT-AUTO needs to fine-tune as the power is increased particularly >500w. Once fully tuned, it is rock steady. I am a little cautious and avoid having Alphamax on at the same time as when the AT-AUTO is fine-tuning at QRO as the 87a Alphamax wants to adjust at the same time as the AT-AUTO. It's happened several times without harm when I have been distracted but it makes me nervous hi. I discussed this "retuning or fine-tuning" with Palstar (Paul and Tech) and it seems to be inherent to the tuner and a grossly non-resonant antenna like my vertical. I don't know if this is only with the early AT-AUTO's of whether the newly designed auto-tuner will behave differently but cannot see why it should. All in all I love my setup with the AT-AUTO and 87A - both seem to be built rock-solid.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Clyde Washburn" <k2ue@...> wrote:
>
> They are saying you should not have any tuner in your exciter turned on when driving the amp, or passing thru it with the amp in
> standby. Nor should a separate tuner be placed ahead of the amp, between it and the exciter. They have a strict 150W limit on the
> input and bypass path based on a true 50 ohm load - using a tuner with a high SWR antenna could easily exceed the voltage or current
> equivalent to 150W/50 ohms. The correct solution is for all tuners to be after the amp, so that when the amp is in standby (or off)
> the power flowing thru it from the exciter is seeing the matched 50 ohm input of the tuner. And tuning of the tuner itself would
> want to be done at low power, so that the voltages and currents when you start tuning (and it may be badly mismatched on the input)
> are less than 150W equivalent voltage or current. It all makes sense when you consider the condition they are trying to prevent -
> excess input voltage or current in the low power input/feedthru path.
>
>
>
> _____
>
> Clyde Washburn, K2UE
>

> 82 Lasalle Pkwy
>
> Victor, NY 14564-9610
>
> 585-317-7006
>
> k2ue@...
>

1019. surge suppresor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-15 03:52:30 UTC
From: boloc442
Topic: 1019 Message: 1019

can some one please recommend a good 240 volt surge suppressor for the alpha 87a to protect against voltage spikes etc. thanks John kb2huk

1020. Re: [Alpha87a] surge suppresor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-15 04:51:04 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 1019 Message: 1020

Cutler Hammer sells a standard whole house unit available at Lowes, Home Depot or your local electrical wholesale store...

http://www.google.com/products/catalog?hl=en&sugexp=pfwl&tok=JKqbeuHFkrgArY1aDDfv5g&cp=25&gs_id=3t&xhr=t&q=cutler+hammer+whole+house+surge+protector&gs_upl=&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_cp.,cf.osb&biw=1024&bih=673&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=shop&cid=17926120912050343298&sa=X&ei=D1sST42nJIWggwf_ktXCAw&sqi=2&ved=0CF8Q8wIwAA

73,
Dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: boloc442
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 10:52 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] surge suppresor

can some one please recommend a good 240 volt surge suppressor for the alpha 87a to protect against voltage spikes etc. thanks John kb2huk

1021. T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 03:40:37 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1021 Message: 1021

I just aquired a 1993 vintage 87A from an estate of a fellow club member and am going to hook it up to a Kenwood TS-940. But before I do, I want to learn as much as I can about the unit as I reasonably can. I have read through the manual 3+ times, both old and new. I have read through a number of Posts on this group and watched the ETO You Tube videos. Lots of useful information, to be sure.

In your replies you should note that I have been a ham for 45 years but this is my first ever linear amplifier. I am delighted to see that it is nearly idiot proof and hope not to prove myself an idiot.

First Question:
Is the AlphaMax Upgrade worth the investment? For a while I was confused. It seemed that the AlphaMax sales pitch was saying that it would do what the 87A already does: automatically change bands and tune up. But with further reading, it seems that the 87A does that well when connected to a well tuned antenna. What I think the AlphaMax adds is that it will automatically tune up for a less than perfectly matched antenna, which you can do manually with the 87A but not automatically without the AlphaMax. Is this correct or am I missing something? What else does the AlphaMax get you?

Second Question:
Is the Alpha Remote worth the investment? I don't plan on running the amp remotely, but it does take up a chunk of real estate on the operating bench. Moving it out of reach might be an advantage, but if I keep it within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to make it worth while?

Thanks in advance.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

1022. Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 03:43:13 UTC
From: Dennis
Topic: 1021 Message: 1022

Sorry about the title. When I started the message earlier today, I was still looking for the T/R relay voltage and current specs. I found that info in the new manual but forgot to change the topic title.

Best Regards,
Dennis

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
> I just aquired a 1993 vintage 87A from an estate of a fellow club member
> and am going to hook it up to a Kenwood TS-940. But before I do, I want to
> learn as much as I can about the unit as I reasonably can. I have read
> through the manual 3+ times, both old and new. I have read through a
> number of Posts on this group and watched the ETO You Tube videos. Lots of
> useful information, to be sure.
>
> In your replies you should note that I have been a ham for 45 years but
> this is my first ever linear amplifier. I am delighted to see that it is
> nearly idiot proof and hope not to prove myself an idiot.
>
> First Question:
> Is the AlphaMax Upgrade worth the investment? For a while I was confused.
> It seemed that the AlphaMax sales pitch was saying that it would do what
> the 87A already does: automatically change bands and tune up. But with
> further reading, it seems that the 87A does that well when connected to a
> well tuned antenna. What I think the AlphaMax adds is that it will
> automatically tune up for a less than perfectly matched antenna, which you
> can do manually with the 87A but not automatically without the AlphaMax.
> Is this correct or am I missing something? What else does the AlphaMax get
> you?
>
> Second Question:
> Is the Alpha Remote worth the investment? I don't plan on running the amp
> remotely, but it does take up a chunk of real estate on the operating
> bench. Moving it out of reach might be an advantage, but if I keep it
> within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to make
> it worth while?
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>

1023. Re:my first 87A / T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 18:53:55 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 1023 Message: 1023

I have owned my 87a for a few years now and am thourghly pleased with it. I got it used for about $5500 and have never regretted it. I have had many amps in the past, like alpha 76's, ameritron 811 and 811H and even sweep tube amps, along with amp supply amps and others. In the shack I have 6 hf rigs set up with 6 amps, Orion /alpha 87 a, Pegasus / als 600, ts2000/ tl922a, 746 pro/ ic2-kl, and ft990 / al1200. I use the Orion/ Alpha 87a 99 % of the time.

I only have 1 complaint with the 87A, it weighs a ton. Find a place on your station to put it and be sure you don't need to move it again, ever :)

Basically you only have plug in the amp on 240 volts, hook a fairly well matched antenna on the output, an rf cable from the radio to the amp, a keying line from the radio to the amp,turn the output power to 10 or 15 watts on the radio and turn on the amp. After a 3 minute warm up you are ready to go. that's it.

It does everything else. Into a dummy load I have used as much as 60 watts from the radio to drive the amp to around 2200 watts output , so at legal limit, it is not working so hard. If anything is not right the amp will click off to stand by mode. you just fix the problem, (usually wrong antenna or swr too high) and turn the opr/stby switch to stby and back to opr, and go. Iit has lots of self protection built in.

If it has alpha max installed you hit the load ^ and enter buttons at the same time, and the default lights starts blinking, and you are in alphamax mode. that's about it. It is a sweet amp, and you will probably keep it for ever. its that good.

I hope this ramble helps.

tom N6AJR

1024. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 19:20:18 UTC
From: Djordan (personal)
Topic: 1021 Message: 1024

I liked the MAX... USED IT in the shack and Internet Remote. The TS480 and TS2000 were plug and play with regard to the T/R switch.

Enjoy,
Dave

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 22, 2012, at 10:43 PM, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:

> Sorry about the title. When I started the message earlier today, I was still looking for the T/R relay voltage and current specs. I found that info in the new manual but forgot to change the topic title.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
> >
> > I just aquired a 1993 vintage 87A from an estate of a fellow club member
> > and am going to hook it up to a Kenwood TS-940. But before I do, I want to
> > learn as much as I can about the unit as I reasonably can. I have read
> > through the manual 3+ times, both old and new. I have read through a
> > number of Posts on this group and watched the ETO You Tube videos. Lots of
> > useful information, to be sure.
> >
> > In your replies you should note that I have been a ham for 45 years but
> > this is my first ever linear amplifier. I am delighted to see that it is
> > nearly idiot proof and hope not to prove myself an idiot.
> >
> > First Question:
> > Is the AlphaMax Upgrade worth the investment? For a while I was confused.
> > It seemed that the AlphaMax sales pitch was saying that it would do what
> > the 87A already does: automatically change bands and tune up. But with
> > further reading, it seems that the 87A does that well when connected to a
> > well tuned antenna. What I think the AlphaMax adds is that it will
> > automatically tune up for a less than perfectly matched antenna, which you
> > can do manually with the 87A but not automatically without the AlphaMax.
> > Is this correct or am I missing something? What else does the AlphaMax get
> > you?
> >
> > Second Question:
> > Is the Alpha Remote worth the investment? I don't plan on running the amp
> > remotely, but it does take up a chunk of real estate on the operating
> > bench. Moving it out of reach might be an advantage, but if I keep it
> > within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to make

> > it worth while?
> >
> > Thanks in advance.
> >
> > Best Regards,
> > Dennis, N8ERF
> >
>
>

1025. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:my first 87A / T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 19:52:07 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1023 Message: 1025

Tom,

You win! That is a lot of station. Holy Cow!

Thanks for the lengthy response. I got it up and running this afternoon. It seems to be working OK, although I have not done an on the air contact to get a signal report yet. When I first turned it on, it didn't want to change bands. Then I remembered I forgot to hook up the ground strap to the XMTR and the station ground buss. Everything in the shack that can be grounded to the buss is. After I put those on and restarted, it seems to work just fine.

If you don't mind, I would like to ask a couple more questions.
The blower seems to be louder than I expected. I was expecting a pretty quiet blower.

When I change bands or segments, I can hear some serious growling inside the amp. It sounds like one of the bearings on one of the variables needs some oil. Is that the normal sound of the stepper motor, or is that abnormal.

Thanks again,
Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Jan 23, 2012 at 1:53 PM, <catfishtwo@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> **
> I have owned my 87a for a few years now and am thourghly pleased with it.
> I got it used for about $5500 and have never regretted it. I have had many
> amps in the past, like alpha 76's, ameritron 811 and 811H and even sweep
> tube amps, along with amp supply amps and others. In the shack I have 6 hf
> rigs set up with 6 amps, Orion /alpha 87 a, Pegasus / als 600, ts2000/
> tl922a, 746 pro/ ic2-kl, and ft990 / al1200. I use the Orion/ Alpha 87a 99
> % of the time.
>
> I only have 1 complaint with the 87A, it weighs a ton. Find a place on
> your station to put it and be sure you don't need to move it again, ever :)
>
> Basically you only have plug in the amp on 240 volts, hook a fairly well
> matched antenna on the output, an rf cable from the radio to the amp, a
> keying line from the radio to the amp,turn the output power to 10 or 15
> watts on the radio and turn on the amp. After a 3 minute warm up you are
> ready to go. that's it.

>
> It does everything else. Into a dummy load I have used as much as 60
> watts from the radio to drive the amp to around 2200 watts output , so at
> legal limit, it is not working so hard. If anything is not right the amp
> will click off to stand by mode. you just fix the problem, (usually wrong
> antenna or swr too high) and turn the opr/stby switch to stby and back to
> opr, and go. Iit has lots of self protection built in.
>
> If it has alpha max installed you hit the load ^ and enter buttons at the
> same time, and the default lights starts blinking, and you are in alphamax
> mode. that's about it. It is a sweet amp, and you will probably keep it
> for ever. its that good.
>
> I hope this ramble helps.
>
> tom N6AJR
>
>
>

1026. AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 20:25:57 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1021 Message: 1026

Hi Dennis,

Congratulations on your acquisition. Here are my answers to your questions:

1. AlphaMax -- This is a very worthwhile upgrade. Not only does it improve operation of the amp, it will also enhance resale value. You're mostly correct about what it does, but there's a little more to it. Without AlphaMax, you manually pre-tune each frequency segment on each band using a particular antenna. The tuning parameters are then stored in memory and retrieved when you tune the rig to one of the pre-programmed frequency segments. This works very well if you have one broadband antenna per band. But it doesn't work so well if you have multiple antennas with different impedance characteristics on the same band, or if you have one antenna that presents significantly different impedance across a single frequeny segment (that can happen on 160m or 80m.)

AlphaMax starts with the stored tuning parameters, then optimizes the tuning on the fly, while you transmit. I find that it works exceptionally well and really enjoy this feature (I have up to six antennas on some bands.) There are some difficult matching scenarios that may cause AlphaMax to hunt and hunt for a match and not find one, but it should work OK for most antennas.

2. AlphaRemote -- Also very worthwhile. It's essential for my station because my amp in a basement closet under the shack. AlphaRemote can power up the amp and shut it down, lets me switch from Standby to Operate and back, lets me turn AlphaMax on and off, etc. It also displays a graphic representation of the power output, grid current and plate current. However, it doesn't show the 87A's tuning meter, so you might want to setup the amp in your shack to do the pretuning from the front panel, then move it to a remote location.

Note that you must run an RS-232 cable from your computer to the 87A for AlphaRemote to work.

The 87A also has a pair of DC outputs on the rear panel that track the power output and the grid current. If you're handy with digital circuits you can build a power and grid current monitor in the shack. All you need is a few common LED bar graph driver ICs and some LEDs.

Hope this helps,
73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
> I just aquired a 1993 vintage 87A from an estate of a fellow club member
> and am going to hook it up to a Kenwood TS-940. But before I do, I want to
> learn as much as I can about the unit as I reasonably can. I have read
> through the manual 3+ times, both old and new. I have read through a
> number of Posts on this group and watched the ETO You Tube videos. Lots of
> useful information, to be sure.
>
> In your replies you should note that I have been a ham for 45 years but

> this is my first ever linear amplifier. I am delighted to see that it is
> nearly idiot proof and hope not to prove myself an idiot.
>
> First Question:
> Is the AlphaMax Upgrade worth the investment? For a while I was confused.
> It seemed that the AlphaMax sales pitch was saying that it would do what
> the 87A already does: automatically change bands and tune up. But with
> further reading, it seems that the 87A does that well when connected to a
> well tuned antenna. What I think the AlphaMax adds is that it will
> automatically tune up for a less than perfectly matched antenna, which you
> can do manually with the 87A but not automatically without the AlphaMax.
> Is this correct or am I missing something? What else does the AlphaMax get
> you?
>
> Second Question:
> Is the Alpha Remote worth the investment? I don't plan on running the amp
> remotely, but it does take up a chunk of real estate on the operating
> bench. Moving it out of reach might be an advantage, but if I keep it
> within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to make
> it worth while?
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>

1027. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 20:40:13 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1021 Message: 1027

Hi Dick,

Thanks for the lengthy response. I appreciate it. I just got the amp running this afternoon and have been getting comfortable with it.

Based on your response and a couple of others, I will definitely be upgrading to the AlphaMax. My main antenna is a SteppIR DB-36 which always presents a good SWR, but I also have a 160 m dipole that I would like to use. Your explanation is excellent. That really helps put it into focus. I am sure the AlphaMax will come in handy with the 160 m dipole especially.

I appreciate your time to respond.

Best Regards,
Dennis

On Mon, Jan 23, 2012 at 3:25 PM, dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hi Dennis,
>
> Congratulations on your acquisition. Here are my answers to your questions:
>
> 1. AlphaMax -- This is a very worthwhile upgrade. Not only does it improve
> operation of the amp, it will also enhance resale value. You're mostly
> correct about what it does, but there's a little more to it. Without
> AlphaMax, you manually pre-tune each frequency segment on each band using a
> particular antenna. The tuning parameters are then stored in memory and
> retrieved when you tune the rig to one of the pre-programmed frequency
> segments. This works very well if you have one broadband antenna per band.
> But it doesn't work so well if you have multiple antennas with different
> impedance characteristics on the same band, or if you have one antenna that
> presents significantly different impedance across a single frequeny segment
> (that can happen on 160m or 80m.)
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> AlphaMax starts with the stored tuning parameters, then optimizes the
> tuning on the fly, while you transmit. I find that it works exceptionally
> well and really enjoy this feature (I have up to six antennas on some
> bands.) There are some difficult matching scenarios that may cause AlphaMax
> to hunt and hunt for a match and not find one, but it should work OK for
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> it to a remote location.
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> Note that you must run an RS-232 cable from your computer to the 87A for
> AlphaRemote to work.
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> The 87A also has a pair of DC outputs on the rear panel that track the
> power output and the grid current. If you're handy with digital circuits
> you can build a power and grid current monitor in the shack. All you need
> is a few common LED bar graph driver ICs and some LEDs.
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> Hope this helps,
> 73, Dick WC1M
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
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> > useful information, to be sure.
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> > In your replies you should note that I have been a ham for 45 years but
> > this is my first ever linear amplifier. I am delighted to see that it is
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> > within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to make
> > it worth while?
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> > Thanks in advance.
> >
> > Best Regards,
> > Dennis, N8ERF
> >
>
>
>

1028. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 20:55:27 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1021 Message: 1028

In my case, I use one dipole fed with 600-ohm open feeder line to a motorized homebrew ATU. As it starts to rain, the line input Z changes and can change during the middle of a QSO when I don't have access to the ATU's trim controls. AlphaMax adapts well to this slow change in impedance as water builds, then evaporates on the line. Real-time impedance adaptation is not possible with the ACOM 2000A and most other automated amps.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Dennis Klipa
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 3:40 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage)

Hi Dick,

Thanks for the lengthy response. I appreciate it. I just got the amp running this afternoon and have been getting comfortable with it.

Based on your response and a couple of others, I will definitely be upgrading to the AlphaMax. My main antenna is a SteppIR DB-36 which always presents a good SWR, but I also have a 160 m dipole that I would like to use. Your explanation is excellent. That really helps put it into focus. I am sure the AlphaMax will come in handy with the 160 m dipole especially.

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Best Regards,
Dennis

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AlphaMax starts with the stored tuning parameters, then optimizes the tuning on the fly, while you transmit. I find that it works exceptionally well and really enjoy this feature (I have up to six antennas on some bands.) There are some difficult matching scenarios that may cause AlphaMax to hunt and hunt for a match and not find one, but it should work OK for most antennas.

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Note that you must run an RS-232 cable from your computer to the 87A for AlphaRemote to work.

The 87A also has a pair of DC outputs on the rear panel that track the power output and the grid current. If you're handy with digital circuits you can build a power and grid current monitor in the shack. All you need is a few common LED bar graph driver ICs and some LEDs.

Hope this helps,
73, Dick WC1M

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> it worth while?
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> Thanks in advance.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>

1029. Replacing Grid Current bar graph LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 20:51:55 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1029 Message: 1029

One of the LED's in the grid current bar graph appears to have gone out. It's the first red LED after yellow. (Interpolating, the value of that LED represents ~ 125 mA.) I noticed it when Alpha Max was tuning the amp on ten meters. I saw the grid current bar graph go to the max very briefly while the amp was searching for the best setting. I noticed that particular segment was not lit, while those surrounding it were. Since it is the first "red zone" LED, I would like to replace it. I'll test the LED first to make sure it's bad.

I thought I would query here to see if anybody had any recommendations on replacing the LED. Any information on the LED specifications, testing or replacement procedures would be appreciated.

73, Kirk K4RO

1030. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 20:59:27 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1021 Message: 1030

Hi Dennis,

the 87a without AlphaMax is just a memory tune amp. Enabling the AlphaMax makes it auto tune. It is useful to have all the time optimal tuned amp. The AlphaRemote would be useful to control it from the screen, often you get there more data...

73s Tadej S52X

2012/1/23 Djordan (personal) <wa3gin@...>

> **
>
>
> I liked the MAX... USED IT in the shack and Internet Remote. The TS480
> and TS2000 were plug and play with regard to the T/R switch.
>
> Enjoy,
> Dave
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On Jan 22, 2012, at 10:43 PM, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> Sorry about the title. When I started the message earlier today, I was
> still looking for the T/R relay voltage and current specs. I found that
> info in the new manual but forgot to change the topic title.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis
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> > Thanks in advance.
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> > Best Regards,
> > Dennis, N8ERF
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>

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Tadej Arcon, S52X

1031. Re: [Alpha87a] Replacing Grid Current bar graph LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 21:30:04 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1029 Message: 1031

Hello Kirk,

We have the 87A display bargraph LEDs in stock at RF Concepts (Alpha), our part number for the red one is DLX-X104.

You can call to order, 303-473-9232 is the main telephone number, just have the part number available.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Jan 23, 2012 at 1:51 PM, K4RO Kirk Pickering <k4ro@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> One of the LED's in the grid current bar graph appears to have gone
> out. It's the first red LED after yellow. (Interpolating, the value
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> or replacement procedures would be appreciated.
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> 73, Kirk K4RO
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>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1032. Re: Replacing Grid Current bar graph LED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-23 22:18:56 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1029 Message: 1032

Sounds like a good Idea . When the info about the type of led to use as a replacement please let me know . thanks to all John Molenda kb2huk

1033. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 00:24:08 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1021 Message: 1033

Paul,

Thanks for the response. That is a perfect illustration of the capabilities. It is on my list for sure. I got the unit running today and am still checking out the amp. Very cool design. Can't imaging going to different one unless it was the 9500, but then there is the cost differential.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Jan 23, 2012 at 3:55 PM, Paul Christensen <w9ac@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> **
> In my case, I use one dipole fed with 600-ohm open feeder line to a
> motorized homebrew ATU. As it starts to rain, the line input Z changes and
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> water builds, then evaporates on the line. Real-time impedance
> adaptation is not possible with the ACOM 2000A and most other automated
> amps.
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> Paul, W9AC
>
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>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Sent:* Monday, January 23, 2012 3:40 PM
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax/AlphaRemote (was Re: T/R Relay
> Current/Voltage)
>
>
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> Hi Dick,
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> Dennis
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>> > Dennis, N8ERF
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1034. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 00:27:04 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1021 Message: 1034

Tadej,

Thanks for taking the time to display. I understand the difference now, at least a little bit. I have gotten a few very nice replies, which I appreciate. I look forward to using my new amp and knowing this group is here for help when I need it.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Jan 23, 2012 at 3:59 PM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:

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> Hi Dennis,
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> The AlphaRemote would be useful to control it from the screen, often you
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> 73s Tadej S52X
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> 2012/1/23 Djordan (personal) <wa3gin@...>
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>> I liked the MAX... USED IT in the shack and Internet Remote. The TS480
>> and TS2000 were plug and play with regard to the T/R switch.
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>> Enjoy,
>> Dave
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>> Sent from my iPad
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>> On Jan 22, 2012, at 10:43 PM, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:
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> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>
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>

1035. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 10:20:58 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1021 Message: 1035

Dennis,

think about optional fan for 87a too.

73s Tadej S52X

2012/1/24 Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...>

> **
>
>
> Tadej,
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>>> > further reading, it seems that the 87A does that well when connected
>>> to a
>>> > well tuned antenna. What I think the AlphaMax adds is that it will
>>> > automatically tune up for a less than perfectly matched antenna, which
>>> you
>>> > can do manually with the 87A but not automatically without the
>>> AlphaMax.
>>> > Is this correct or am I missing something? What else does the AlphaMax
>>> get
>>> > you?
>>> >
>>> > Second Question:
>>> > Is the Alpha Remote worth the investment? I don't plan on running the
>>> amp

>>> > remotely, but it does take up a chunk of real estate on the operating
>>> > bench. Moving it out of reach might be an advantage, but if I keep it
>>> > within reach, does the Alpha Remote offer enough other advantages to
>>> make
>>> > it worth while?
>>> >
>>> > Thanks in advance.
>>> >
>>> > Best Regards,
>>> > Dennis, N8ERF
>>> >
>>>
>>>
>>
>>
>> --
>> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>>
>>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1036. Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 17:22:21 UTC
From: Dennis
Topic: 1036 Message: 1036

First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.

When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?

This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.

I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to do something about it.

This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.

Thanks in advance.
Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

1037. Re: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 18:08:54 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 1036 Message: 1037

Its the stepper motors.
Nothing to worry about , they all do this.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: Dennis
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.

When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?

This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.

I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to do something about it.

This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.

Thanks in advance.
Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

1038. Re: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 18:13:52 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 1036 Message: 1038

Oh, forgot about the blower.
Mine needed changing and its a big”ish” job
you should find details in the file section on changing
the internal blower. Even after fitting a new one it was
not what I would call whisper fan LOL but far better than
my old one that sounded like it was trying to escape.

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: Dennis
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.

When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?

This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.

I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to do something about it.

This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.

Thanks in advance.
Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

1039. Re: my first 87A / T/R Relay Current/Voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 18:30:30 UTC
From: catfishtwo@aol.com
Topic: 1023 Message: 1039

Ok, the fan is a bit on the loud side, you can certainly notice when you turn it off at the end of the session, but you need a lot of air to keep those very expensive tubes cool, with proper care, (mostly use a pretty good match on the antennas and let it cool down when done in standby for 4 or 5 minutes when done,) they will out last you.

and the alpha 87 a will growl and moan and really scare you when you turn it on the first time, and that is perfectly normal. enjoy your new toy.

tom N6AJR

1040. Re: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 20:14:59 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1036 Message: 1040

Dennis,

The "growling" noise you suggest is probably nothing more than the normal sound of the stepper motors, however if your blower motor is making more noise than you think it should the blower probably needs replacing. You can attempt to oil the motor bearings but if the bower is out of balance it will fail sooner than later.

Replacement blowers are avaliable from R F Concepts. $150. pus shipping. Ouch! Replacement takes 3-4 hours to complete. Detailed instructions are included with the blower, additional instructions and pictures can be found on the internet. I suggest you take pictures as you remove yours in case you run into a problem installing the new blower.

Good luck and enjoy your 87a.

73's
Jim
K5WLQ

Dennis <klipadk@gmail.com> wrote:

>First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.
>
>When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?
>
>This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.
>
>I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to do something about it.
>
>This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.
>
>Thanks in advance.
>Best Regards,
>Dennis, N8ERF
>

1041. Re: [Alpha87a] Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-24 20:39:02 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1036 Message: 1041

Jim, Paul,

That is a relief to know that the growling sound is normal. The fan is not too bad yet. For $150 and 3-4 hours work, I think I will keep an ear on it for a while longer to see if it is going to act up. It doesn't sound "like it is trying to escape". That was worth a chuckle. Taking pictures during dismantling sounds like a good idea. I have done that on a number of projects and is worthwhile on complex projects.

Glenn, the blower screws were gone.

Brilliant asnwers, thanks for putting my mind at ease.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

On Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 3:14 PM, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Dennis,
>
> The "growling" noise you suggest is probably nothing more than the normal
> sound of the stepper motors, however if your blower motor is making more
> noise than you think it should the blower probably needs replacing. You can
> attempt to oil the motor bearings but if the bower is out of balance it
> will fail sooner than later.
>
> Replacement blowers are avaliable from R F Concepts. $150. pus shipping.
> Ouch! Replacement takes 3-4 hours to complete. Detailed instructions are
> included with the blower, additional instructions and pictures can be found
> on the internet. I suggest you take pictures as you remove yours in case
> you run into a problem installing the new blower.
>
> Good luck and enjoy your 87a.
>
> 73's
> Jim
> K5WLQ
>
>
> Dennis <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
>
>

> First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.
>
> When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling
> noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say
> that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in
> this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all
> have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?
>
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> expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but
> it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.
>
> I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to
> do something about it.
>
> This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.
>
> Thanks in advance.
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>
>
>

1042. Re: [ic-PW1] My amps blown up again.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-25 13:49:52 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 1042 Message: 1042

SORRY, Can't help myself .....

Dump the ICOM and Purchase an Alpha ..... Something like an 87-A or a 9500 !!!!!!!!! And be done with all this EXTRA work required !

On Sat, Oct 29, 2011 at 12:18 PM, ian.g3roo@btinternet.com <
ian.g3roo@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Twice before this has happened in the guarentee period, but this time it's
> out and going ot cost £700!
>
> The problem is the relay driver chip on the LPF goes and this takes out a
> couple of amps....
>
> Icom UK have tried an unofficial modification of putting high voltage
> diodes in series) on the output lines but this has not worked.
>
> My amp sometimes flips of the band to another and back when under CIV
> control. I'm sure I've seen this mentioned on the list, is there any
> cure.....
>
> Anyway, I think it is up to them to do it..... what do you think?
>
> Ian
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
http://www.k5elp.com

1043. Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-27 17:40:59 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1043

First of all, hello! I'm new to the group and a proud papa of an Alpha 87A for about 10 years.

Second, I do have a silly question. I've never noticed this before, but when not transmitting and not keyed down, my 87A runs between 50 - 70 mA grid current. Is this normal / acceptable? I'm not getting any faults and the amplifier works great. I'm curious if this is normal and, if not, what might be the likely culprit. The amplifier has been only very lightly used over the years and always well ventilated.

Thanks in advance and 73,

Bob WA4FOM

1044. Re: new 87a question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-27 17:55:53 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1012 Message: 1044

I've been using one with no problems. I tune up with the 87A
in standby mode first so when you engage the amp, it sees
50 ohms (more or less). I found if the tuner needs to tune
and the 87A is on-line, before the tuner finds a solution
the SWR might be more than the 87A can handle and it will
fault.

73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Harry Williams <willisw200@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hello John,
> I used an AT-Auto tuner with an 87a for about 3 years with no problems at
> all. I am now using it with the 9500.
>
> 73,
> Harry
> W0LS
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: boloc442
> Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 8:08 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] new 87a question
>
> Hello , I am hooking up my 87a today for the first time . I read most of the
> manual last night . It says something about not using a auto tuner in or
> through the amp ? My question is ... Is it OK to run my amp with my Palstar
> AT-Auto tuner ? Is anyone already doing so ? thanks for your time and
> information. 73s de kb2huk John
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

1045. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-27 18:13:51 UTC
From: Frank LaFranco
Topic: 1043 Message: 1045

Hi Bob,
I'm Frank - W6NEK.
I just fired up my 87A into a dummy load and here is what I am seeing on my amp:
With 87A in Operate Mode and PTT enabled but no keying (no RF input) the displayed grid current is zero (LED not lit)
With 40 watts of drive the output power is 1.5KW and grid current is aprox 35 to 40 ma. (3 LEDs lit)
According to the manual it says "With RF output peaking near 1.5 kW, highest indicated grid current peaks should be 20-50 mA to insure both efficiency and linearity".

If I was you I would call Alpha and get their input on how your amp is working. 70mA grid current is high with or without RF excitation. You sure don't want to damage those tubes. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable then I has more to contribute. I would not operate that amp until you get some additional educated input.

Hope all works out,
Frank - W6NEK

----- Original Message -----
From: Bob
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 9:40 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A idling grid current question

First of all, hello! I'm new to the group and a proud papa of an Alpha 87A for about 10 years.

Second, I do have a silly question. I've never noticed this before, but when not transmitting and not keyed down, my 87A runs between 50 - 70 mA grid current. Is this normal / acceptable? I'm not getting any faults and the amplifier works great. I'm curious if this is normal and, if not, what might be the likely culprit. The amplifier has been only very lightly used over the years and always well ventilated.

Thanks in advance and 73,

Bob WA4FOM

Yahoo! Groups Links

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4770 - Release Date: 01/27/12

1046. Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-27 20:47:22 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1046

Thanks much for the quick reply, Frank. Yeah, I had a
feeling it wasn't quite right. I'll probably watch for
more replies and send an e-mail to RF Concepts on Monday
(they reserve the weekends for QSOs, hi, hi).

73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Frank LaFranco" <flafranco@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Bob,
> I'm Frank - W6NEK.
> I just fired up my 87A into a dummy load and here is what I am seeing on my amp:
> With 87A in Operate Mode and PTT enabled but no keying (no RF input) the displayed grid current is zero (LED not lit)
> With 40 watts of drive the output power is 1.5KW and grid current is aprox 35 to 40 ma. (3 LEDs lit)
> According to the manual it says "With RF output peaking near 1.5 kW, highest indicated grid current peaks should be 20-50 mA to insure both efficiency and linearity".
>
> If I was you I would call Alpha and get their input on how your amp is working. 70mA grid current is high with or without RF excitation. You sure don't want to damage those tubes. Perhaps someone more knowledgeable then I has more to contribute. I would not operate that amp until you get some additional educated input.
>
> Hope all works out,
> Frank - W6NEK
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Bob
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 9:40 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A idling grid current question
>
>
>
> First of all, hello! I'm new to the group and a proud papa
> of an Alpha 87A for about 10 years.
>
> Second, I do have a silly question. I've never noticed this
> before, but when not transmitting and not keyed down, my
> 87A runs between 50 - 70 mA grid current. Is this normal /
> acceptable? I'm not getting any faults and the amplifier
> works great. I'm curious if this is normal and, if not,
> what might be the likely culprit. The amplifier has been

> only very lightly used over the years and always well
> ventilated.
>
> Thanks in advance and 73,
>
> Bob WA4FOM
>
>
>
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>
> -----
> No virus found in this message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 2012.0.1901 / Virus Database: 2109/4770 - Release Date: 01/27/12
>

1047. Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-28 19:28:44 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1043 Message: 1047

Definitely not normal. Grid current should be zero when not transmitting. Call Alpha about it.

What does grid current run when you transmit into a dummy load or resonant antenna?

I can speculate about some possible causes:

1. Something wrong with the cathode bias circuit. I think this would cause plate current to flow, too, but I'm not sure. Also, I think the condition would be picked up by one of the fault sensors.

2. Something wrong with the tube or the grid connection to ground. You might try reseating the tubes (WARNINNG: Lethal voltages. Unplug amp before opening case and put cover back on before plugging amp back in!)

3. Something wrong in the sensor circuit. This happened to me once, but in the plate current monitor circuit. With the multi-meter set to show plate current, the lowest LED would remain lit even when not transmitting. Eventually, the next higher LED came on. I talked it over with Alpha and after some measurements we determined that the op amp responsible for plate current measurement was defective. Replacing it fixed the problem. That was easy because the op amp is on the HV board, which is easy to get out (though the part is obsolete and if Alpha hadn't had a stock of spares I'd have been out of luck!) The op amp that deals with grid current is on the LV board, which is considerably harder to remove. But I think that op amp is a more common part. Note that it could be a problem with another part in the sensor circuit.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@...> wrote:
>
>
> First of all, hello! I'm new to the group and a proud papa
> of an Alpha 87A for about 10 years.
>
> Second, I do have a silly question. I've never noticed this
> before, but when not transmitting and not keyed down, my
> 87A runs between 50 - 70 mA grid current. Is this normal /
> acceptable? I'm not getting any faults and the amplifier
> works great. I'm curious if this is normal and, if not,
> what might be the likely culprit. The amplifier has been
> only very lightly used over the years and always well
> ventilated.
>
> Thanks in advance and 73,
>
> Bob WA4FOM
>

1048. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-28 20:04:39 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 1043 Message: 1048

Maybe a problem with the meter movement itself or static buildup on the meter, just a guess.

Dale, k9vuj

On 28, Jan 2012, at 13:28, dickgreen03755 wrote:

> Definitely not normal. Grid current should be zero when not transmitting. Call Alpha about it.
>
> What does grid current run when you transmit into a dummy load or resonant antenna?
>
> I can speculate about some possible causes:
>
> 1. Something wrong with the cathode bias circuit. I think this would cause plate current to flow, too, but I'm not sure. Also, I think the condition would be picked up by one of the fault sensors.
>
> 2. Something wrong with the tube or the grid connection to ground. You might try reseating the tubes (WARNINNG: Lethal voltages. Unplug amp before opening case and put cover back on before plugging amp back in!)
>
> 3. Something wrong in the sensor circuit. This happened to me once, but in the plate current monitor circuit. With the multi-meter set to show plate current, the lowest LED would remain lit even when not transmitting. Eventually, the next higher LED came on. I talked it over with Alpha and after some measurements we determined that the op amp responsible for plate current measurement was defective. Replacing it fixed the problem. That was easy because the op amp is on the HV board, which is easy to get out (though the part is obsolete and if Alpha hadn't had a stock of spares I'd have been out of luck!) The op amp that deals with grid current is on the LV board, which is considerably harder to remove. But I think that op amp is a more common part. Note that it could be a problem with another part in the sensor circuit.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@...> wrote:
>>
>>
>> First of all, hello! I'm new to the group and a proud papa
>> of an Alpha 87A for about 10 years.
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>> Second, I do have a silly question. I've never noticed this
>> before, but when not transmitting and not keyed down, my
>> 87A runs between 50 - 70 mA grid current. Is this normal /

>> acceptable? I'm not getting any faults and the amplifier
>> works great. I'm curious if this is normal and, if not,
>> what might be the likely culprit. The amplifier has been
>> only very lightly used over the years and always well
>> ventilated.
>>
>> Thanks in advance and 73,
>>
>> Bob WA4FOM
>>
>
>
>
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1049. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-28 20:19:24 UTC
From: Paul Young
Topic: 1043 Message: 1049

The 87a only has LED and no movment

Paul G0HWC

From: dalej
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Maybe a problem with the meter movement itself or static buildup on the meter, just a guess.

Dale, k9vuj

On 28, Jan 2012, at 13:28, dickgreen03755 wrote:

1050. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A idling grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-28 21:09:28 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 1043 Message: 1050

Blast, I was thinking of the old 76 series not the 87A. You are right.

Dale, k9vuj

On 28, Jan 2012, at 14:19, Paul Young wrote:

>
>
> The 87a only has LED and no movment
>
> Paul G0HWC
>
> From: dalej
> Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:04 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A idling grid current question
>
> Maybe a problem with the meter movement itself or static buildup on the meter, just a guess.
>
> Dale, k9vuj
>
> On 28, Jan 2012, at 13:28, dickgreen03755 wrote:
>
>
>
>
>

1051. Re: Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-30 14:36:37 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1036 Message: 1051

I'm happy to hear that the gorwling noise (sounding like ungreased bearings) is normal on band change and, to a lesser extent, on segment change. Mine 1992 model does that as well. I had looked at a few Youtube videos of operating 87A's and couldn't hear much of a sound. I've also never seen another 87A in action in person.As to fan noise, mine came with the external auxiliary fan already installed. Clearly the bearings were failing on the internal fan, so I ordered a replacement and it indeed took 3 to 4 hours to make the change. One problem I encountered once I put it back together was that somehow I lost the automatic band change fucntion in the process. It turned out that all I had done was plug a small two prong cable onto the wrong spot directly under the tube deck. Once I swicthed it to the proper one I was back in business. I of course failed to take pictures during disassembly and then couldn't find anything online that showed where the plug should be connected to. Subsequent to replacing the internal blower there was still bearing noise coming from the exterla fan. Rather than pay $100 or more for a replacement part from RF Concepts, I simply measured the distance bewteen the four bolt holes, noted the voltage and simply bought a replacement fan for around $20 off of Ebay. It wouks great. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
> Jim, Paul,
>
> That is a relief to know that the growling sound is normal. The fan is
> not too bad yet. For $150 and 3-4 hours work, I think I will keep an ear
> on it for a while longer to see if it is going to act up. It doesn't sound
> "like it is trying to escape". That was worth a chuckle. Taking pictures
> during dismantling sounds like a good idea. I have done that on a number
> of projects and is worthwhile on complex projects.
>
> Glenn, the blower screws were gone.
>
> Brilliant asnwers, thanks for putting my mind at ease.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>
>
>
> On Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 3:14 PM, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > Dennis,
> >
> > The "growling" noise you suggest is probably nothing more than the normal
> > sound of the stepper motors, however if your blower motor is making more

> > noise than you think it should the blower probably needs replacing. You can
> > attempt to oil the motor bearings but if the bower is out of balance it
> > will fail sooner than later.
> >
> > Replacement blowers are avaliable from R F Concepts. $150. pus shipping.
> > Ouch! Replacement takes 3-4 hours to complete. Detailed instructions are
> > included with the blower, additional instructions and pictures can be found
> > on the internet. I suggest you take pictures as you remove yours in case
> > you run into a problem installing the new blower.
> >
> > Good luck and enjoy your 87a.
> >
> > 73's
> > Jim
> > K5WLQ
> >
> >
> > Dennis klipadk@... wrote:
> >
> >
> >
> > First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.
> >
> > When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling
> > noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say
> > that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in
> > this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all
> > have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?
> >
> > This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I
> > expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but
> > it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.
> >
> > I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to
> > do something about it.
> >
> > This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.
> >
> > Thanks in advance.
> > Best Regards,
> > Dennis, N8ERF
> >
> >
> >
>

1052. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Growling Noise on Band Change

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-01-30 16:03:25 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1036 Message: 1052

Rick,

My suggestion to Dennis to take pictures when removing the fan in his Alpha 87a comes from expierence. I also failed to take pictures when I replaced the internal fan in my Alpha 87a. No doubt a couple of pictures would have made my installation faster and less painful! Hi!...Hi!

Not all 87a's have the auxiliary fan cooling fan. It was a option Alpha offered when ordering a 87a for operators who run high duty cycles. The factory installed auxiliary fan is a little noisey so Alpha put a small toggle switch on the fan body so it can be disable when not needed. I can hear my auxiliary fan but mine isn't loud enough to bother me so I let it run continuously as a extra safeguard for those expensive
tubes. Have fun with your 87a.

Best 73's and Good Dx,

Jim
K5WLQ

ve9hf <ve9hf@rac.ca> wrote:

>I'm happy to hear that the gorwling noise (sounding like ungreased bearings) is normal on band change and, to a lesser extent, on segment change. Mine 1992 model does that as well. I had looked at a few Youtube videos of operating 87A's and couldn't hear much of a sound. I've also never seen another 87A in action in person.As to fan noise, mine came with the external auxiliary fan already installed. Clearly the bearings were failing on the internal fan, so I ordered a replacement and it indeed took 3 to 4 hours to make the change. One problem I encountered once I put it back together was that somehow I lost the automatic band change fucntion in the process. It turned out that all I had done was plug a small two prong cable onto the wrong spot directly under the tube deck. Once I swicthed it to the proper one I was back in business. I of course failed to take pictures during disassembly and then couldn't find anything online that showed where the plug should be connected to. Subsequent to replacing the internal blower there was still bearing noise coming from the exterla fan. Rather than pay $100 or more for a replacement part from RF Concepts, I simply measured the distance bewteen the four bolt holes, noted the voltage and simply bought a replacement fan for around $20 off of Ebay. It wouks great. Rick VE9HF
>
>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Klipa <klipadk@...> wrote:
>>
>> Jim, Paul,
>>
>> That is a relief to know that the growling sound is normal. The fan is
>> not too bad yet. For $150 and 3-4 hours work, I think I will keep an ear
>> on it for a while longer to see if it is going to act up. It doesn't sound
>> "like it is trying to escape". That was worth a chuckle. Taking pictures
>> during dismantling sounds like a good idea. I have done that on a number

>> of projects and is worthwhile on complex projects.
>>
>> Glenn, the blower screws were gone.
>>
>> Brilliant asnwers, thanks for putting my mind at ease.
>>
>> Best Regards,
>> Dennis, N8ERF
>>
>>
>>
>> On Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 3:14 PM, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>>
>> > **
>> >
>> >
>> > Dennis,
>> >
>> > The "growling" noise you suggest is probably nothing more than the normal
>> > sound of the stepper motors, however if your blower motor is making more
>> > noise than you think it should the blower probably needs replacing. You can
>> > attempt to oil the motor bearings but if the bower is out of balance it
>> > will fail sooner than later.
>> >
>> > Replacement blowers are avaliable from R F Concepts. $150. pus shipping.
>> > Ouch! Replacement takes 3-4 hours to complete. Detailed instructions are
>> > included with the blower, additional instructions and pictures can be found
>> > on the internet. I suggest you take pictures as you remove yours in case
>> > you run into a problem installing the new blower.
>> >
>> > Good luck and enjoy your 87a.
>> >
>> > 73's
>> > Jim
>> > K5WLQ
>> >
>> >
>> > Dennis klipadk@... wrote:
>> >
>> >
>> >
>> > First thanks for all the responses on the AlphaMax question.
>> >
>> > When I change bands or segments and also on start up, I hear a growling
>> > noise inside the amp. If it were any other mechanical device, I would say
>> > that the noise was coming from a dry bearing on a rotating shaft. But in
>> > this case, it could be the normal sound of the stepper motor. Do they all
>> > have this growling noise or do I have a potential problem here?
>> >
>> > This one is a little picky but, the blower seems a little louder than I

>> > expected. It also sounds like the bearings might need some attention, but
>> > it is not nearly as bad as the growling above.
>> >
>> > I can live with both of these if I know they are normal. If not, I want to
>> > do something about it.
>> >
>> > This unit is a 1993 edition so about 19 years old.
>> >
>> > Thanks in advance.
>> > Best Regards,
>> > Dennis, N8ERF
>> >
>> >
>> >
>>
>
>

1053. Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-01 22:51:44 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1053

I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.

Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?

Jack WA9FVP

1054. RE: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-01 23:30:12 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1053 Message: 1054

I have recently have purchased an 87A from the factory in mint condition, with the understanding that the amp has been brought up to the latest factory standards.

How do I verify that the amp is up to date? What specific things do I look for? The serial number indicates its one of the very first amps produced off the factory floor.

-rob

1055. Re: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-01 23:36:31 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 1053 Message: 1055

ask ALPHA!

73,
Dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Fanfant
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:30 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

I have recently have purchased an 87A from the factory in mint condition, with the understanding that the amp has been brought up to the latest factory standards.

How do I verify that the amp is up to date? What specific things do I look for? The serial number indicates its one of the very first amps produced off the factory floor.

-rob

1056. Re: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-01 23:52:32 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1053 Message: 1056

This page will give you a good idea of the changes:

http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html

You'll see some changes to chokes and the diode string on the PS board in addition to other items noted. The web page information may not be all-inclusive, but you'll have a good idea about your amp after reviewing the text and photos.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Fanfant
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:30 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

I have recently have purchased an 87A from the factory in mint condition, with the understanding that the amp has been brought up to the latest factory standards.

How do I verify that the amp is up to date? What specific things do I look for? The serial number indicates its one of the very first amps produced off the factory floor.

-rob

1057. Re: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 00:37:40 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 1053 Message: 1057

I'm pretty familiar with that page :-) but it's not authoritative -- it's come to may attention that some versions of the 87a didn't have two high-power PIN diodes in the TX->AMP path; since some other alpha amps (86, 89) used the same technology as the 87a, perhaps the schematics for those models would yield some information on these models. I only have my own amp as an example, so can't really do this 'techno-archeology'.

Here's a nice link on the model 89 and various changes: http://www.kk5dr.com/89.htm. He also has a document on the alpha 86 including a picture of one with a vacuum relay mod: www.kk5dr.com/old86.pdf. Though he mentions there are 'many sites' on the internet that detail the vacuum relay conversion procedure, I've not been able to find one yet.

I have been made aware ofwww.n4uq.comwhich offers a number of modifications for a number of alpha amplifiers; including substitute of vacuum relays instead of PIN diodes for the 86.

Brian N9ADG

From: Paul Christensen <w9ac@arrl.net>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2012 3:52 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?

This page will give you a good idea of the
changes:

http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html

You'll see some changes to chokes and the diode
string on the PS board in addition to other items noted. The web page
information may not be all-inclusive, but you'll have a good idea about
your amp after reviewing the text and photos.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
>From: Robert Fanfant
>To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:30 PM
>Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] How do I determine what updates have been done to my amp?
>
>
>I have recently have purchased an 87A from the factory in mint condition, with the
understanding that the amp has been brought up to the latest factory standards.
>
>How do I verify that the amp is up to date?
What specific things do I look for? The serial number indicates its one of the

very first amps produced off the factory floor.
>
>-rob
>
>
>

1058. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 18:13:50 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1053 Message: 1058

Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question. Here's what I told him:

I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.

At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
>
> Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
>
> Jack WA9FVP
>

1059. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 19:06:50 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1053 Message: 1059

Pin diodes are fine and I do not see a reason to replace it with relay.
When you have antenna DC grounded there is almost no way to damage it. So
why change?

73s Tadej S52X

2012/2/2 dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>

> **
>
>
> Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question.
> Here's what I told him:
>
> I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum
> relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware
> monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right
> it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell
> you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd
> also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum
> relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.
>
> At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
> >
> > I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum
> relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory,
> modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was
> never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of
> charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
> >
> > Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
> >
> > Jack WA9FVP
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1060. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 20:06:25 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1053 Message: 1060

Tadej,

I'm also a strong advocate of PIN diode switching. I think Alpha and 87A owners see few problems when the amps T/R circuitry is brought up to date.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Tadej Arcon
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:06 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Pin diodes are fine and I do not see a reason to replace it with relay. When you have antenna DC grounded there is almost no way to damage it. So why change?

73s Tadej S52X

2012/2/2 dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>

Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question. Here's what I told him:

I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.

At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
>
> Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
>
> Jack WA9FVP
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1061. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 20:40:12 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1061

Trust me, I know what I'm doing! The way this mod will be done, it won't interrupt any voltages. The receive pin diodes will still be intact and the -109 that connects to the transmit pin diode will be disconnected. The -109 is used to reverse bias the tubes and the XMT pin diodes during receive. It gets pulled to ground during transmit.

The original problem was caused by a shorted XMT pin diode that was pulling on the -109 volt supply and caused a fault #24. This particular 87 was never modified at the factory and the dual XMT pin diode was never installed. Alpha is charging as much as $2000 to do the dual pin diode upgrade. That's why we're going the relay route.

We already tested the amplifier with the XMT pin diode removed and it powers up with no fault conditions. We can transmit at this time because, without the XMT pin diode, there's connection to the antenna.

In a previous job I worked in an industrial espionage group reverse engineering our competitor's products so I know how to take things apart and redesign the product.

I'm repairing the 87A for my friend Barry N2BJ.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question. Here's what I told him:
>
> I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.
>
> At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> >
> > I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
> >

> > Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
> >
> > Jack WA9FVP
> >
>

1062. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod (CORRECTION)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 20:49:17 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1062

We already tested the amplifier with the XMT pin diode removed and it powers up with no fault conditions. We CAN'T transmit at this time because, without the XMT pin diode, there's connection to the antenna.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> Trust me, I know what I'm doing! The way this mod will be done, it won't interrupt any voltages. The receive pin diodes will still be intact and the -109 that connects to the transmit pin diode will be disconnected. The -109 is used to reverse bias the tubes and the XMT pin diodes during receive. It gets pulled to ground during transmit.
>
> The original problem was caused by a shorted XMT pin diode that was pulling on the -109 volt supply and caused a fault #24. This particular 87 was never modified at the factory and the dual XMT pin diode was never installed. Alpha is charging as much as $2000 to do the dual pin diode upgrade. That's why we're going the relay route.
>
> We already tested the amplifier with the XMT pin diode removed and it powers up with no fault conditions. We can transmit at this time because, without the XMT pin diode, there's connection to the antenna.
>
> In a previous job I worked in an industrial espionage group reverse engineering our competitor's products so I know how to take things apart and redesign the product.
>
> I'm repairing the 87A for my friend Barry N2BJ.
>
> Jack WA9FVP
> Willco Electronics
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@> wrote:
> >
> > Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question. Here's what I told him:
> >
> > I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.
> >
> > At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.
> >
> > 73, Dick WC1M
> >
> >

> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
> > >
> > > Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
> > >
> > > Jack WA9FVP
> > >
> >
>

1063. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 21:06:45 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1063

Hi Tadej!

After searching the Internet it appears that even after the dual pin diode upgrade is installed, some hams are still having failures when operating RTTY on 160 and 80 meters.

Barry wants a bullet proof mod that won't fail on any band, operating any mode. I hoping after we do this mod, not only will it be bullet proof but you can throw a brick through it, you know the brick that holds down the key :-)

I'm sure Barry's 78A would have been fine with the dual pin diodes but remember his amplifier was never upgraded by the previous owner and now it would cost $2,000 to have the dual pin upgrade installed. They have to change the power supply, make modifications to the Output T/R board and probably change the firmware. The factory said that it's a 5 hour job.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Pin diodes are fine and I do not see a reason to replace it with relay.
> When you have antenna DC grounded there is almost no way to damage it. So
> why change?
>

1064. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-02 23:48:12 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1053 Message: 1064

So when was the mod incorporated into production 87As?

73, Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

Hi Tadej!

After searching the Internet it appears that even after the dual pin diode upgrade is installed, some hams are still having failures when operating RTTY on 160 and 80 meters.

Barry wants a bullet proof mod that won't fail on any band, operating any mode. I hoping after we do this mod, not only will it be bullet proof but you can throw a brick through it, you know the brick that holds down the key :-)

I'm sure Barry's 87A would have been fine with the dual pin diodes but remember his amplifier was never upgraded by the previous owner and now it would cost $2,000 to have the dual pin upgrade installed. They have to change the power supply, make modifications to the Output T/R board and probably change the firmware. The factory said that it's a 5 hour job.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Pin diodes are fine and I do not see a reason to replace it with relay.
> When you have antenna DC grounded there is almost no way to damage it.
> So why change?

1065. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 01:15:05 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1065

A technicial at the "New Alpha" plant told us that the first 10 or 20 amplifiers were shipped with the single TX pin diode. After that there was a recall to modify the 87A's with the dual pin diode mod. He claims "The reason why they changed the design was because the single pin diode was discontinued". But I think the real reason was that there was a reliability problem.

The dual diode modification needed the power supply change because the reverse cutoff voltage is much higher than the single diode design. The technician also said that the reverse voltage needed to cut off the dual diode is about 800v. He said "It needs that much voltage otherwise the amplifier's auto tuning circuit, when the amplifier is in standby, would load down the receiver".

Now remember, the recall took place about 15 yeas ago when the company was first founded and it changed hands 3 times.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> So when was the mod incorporated into production 87As?
>
> 73, Jim N7US
>
>
>

1066. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 03:15:09 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1053 Message: 1066

> "The dual diode modification needed the power supply change because the reverse cutoff voltage is much higher than the single diode design. The technician also said that the reverse voltage needed to cut off the dual diode is about 800v. He said "It needs that much voltage otherwise the amplifier's auto tuning circuit, when the amplifier is in standby, would load down the receiver".

That's true of any PIN diode T/R switch. Even the Ameritron QSK-5 also biases at many hundred volts. The extreme amount of biasing is required because under high VSWR, the RF voltage can become higher than the reverse bias in the receive path. The diodes are no longer cut off and they begin to conduct.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: willcoele@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:15 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

A technicial at the "New Alpha" plant told us that the first 10 or 20 amplifiers were shipped with the single TX pin diode. After that there was a recall to modify the 87A's with the dual pin diode mod. He claims "The reason why they changed the design was because the single pin diode was discontinued". But I think the real reason was that there was a reliability problem.

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Now remember, the recall took place about 15 yeas ago when the company was first founded and it changed hands 3 times.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim McDonald" <jim@...> wrote:
>
> So when was the mod incorporated into production 87As?
>
> 73, Jim N7US
>
>
>

1067. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 06:18:19 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1053 Message: 1067

I am the technician that spoke to Jack and his friend for 24 minutes on the telephone. A lot of technical information was discussed.

I explained the following verbally and am posting it to this reflector to clear up any misquotations and for anyone interested in how the 87A works:

The bias voltage (900 plus VDC) on the receive PIN diodes is to insure diode cutoff when the amp is transmitting 1500w into a high SWR, the worst case. The transmit PIN diodes, forward biased ON during transmit, use a much lower voltage to cut them off during receive, isolating the tank circuit from the receive signal path to prevent signal loss (sometimes called suckout).

When the 87A is in STANDBY, the entire PIN diode T/R circuit is bypassed by two relays.

I have worked at Alpha since 1998 (Alpha/Power, Crosslink, and RF Concepts). We, and I in particular, take a great interest in the history, repair and maintenance of Alpha amplifiers.

The original single PIN diode was replaced very early in production. Those diodes were no longer available sometime before 1998 when I started working there. For availability reasons, the 87A circuit was changed to dual transmit PIN diodes (and much higher bias voltages) after the first year of production (1991/92).

ETO, and then Alpha/Power, did the conversion at no charge until 2001 when the company changed hands. Eight years of updates at the company's expense was a big commitment to customers. Very few companies stand by their products even close to this long. RF Concepts still services amps no longer in production.

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Feb 2, 2012 at 6:15 PM, willcoele@... <
willcoele@...> wrote:

> **
>
> A technicial at the "New Alpha" plant told us that the first 10 or 20
> amplifiers were shipped with the single TX pin diode. After that there was
> a recall to modify the 87A's with the dual pin diode mod. He claims "The
> reason why they changed the design was because the single pin diode was
> discontinued". But I think the real reason was that there was a reliability
> problem.
>
> The dual diode modification needed the power supply change because the

> reverse cutoff voltage is much higher than the single diode design. The
> technician also said that the reverse voltage needed to cut off the dual
> diode is about 800v. He said "It needs that much voltage otherwise the
> amplifier's auto tuning circuit, when the amplifier is in standby, would
> load down the receiver".
>
> Now remember, the recall took place about 15 yeas ago when the company was
> first founded and it changed hands 3 times.
>
>
--

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1068. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 13:06:35 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1053 Message: 1068

Just out of curiosity, where are you going to get the DC voltage to operate the vacuum relay?

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> Trust me, I know what I'm doing! The way this mod will be done, it won't interrupt any voltages. The receive pin diodes will still be intact and the -109 that connects to the transmit pin diode will be disconnected. The -109 is used to reverse bias the tubes and the XMT pin diodes during receive. It gets pulled to ground during transmit.
>
> The original problem was caused by a shorted XMT pin diode that was pulling on the -109 volt supply and caused a fault #24. This particular 87 was never modified at the factory and the dual XMT pin diode was never installed. Alpha is charging as much as $2000 to do the dual pin diode upgrade. That's why we're going the relay route.
>
> We already tested the amplifier with the XMT pin diode removed and it powers up with no fault conditions. We can transmit at this time because, without the XMT pin diode, there's connection to the antenna.
>
> In a previous job I worked in an industrial espionage group reverse engineering our competitor's products so I know how to take things apart and redesign the product.
>
> I'm repairing the 87A for my friend Barry N2BJ.
>
> Jack WA9FVP
> Willco Electronics
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@> wrote:
> >
> > Funny you should ask. Another 87A owner just asked me the same question. Here's what I told him:
> >
> > I know a guy who replaced the PIN diodes in his Alpha 89 with a vacuum relay. But I'm not sure that can be done in the 87A. The 87A firmware monitors things like bias voltage to the PIN diodes, and if it's not right it'll fault. I don't know enough about RF switching with PIN diodes to tell you how to fool the amp into thinking the PIN diodes are still there. You'd also have to use the PIN diode switching voltage to switch the vacuum relay, though that's probably an easier conversion to figure out.
> >
> > At any rate, I'll ask the guy how he did the 89 mod.
> >
> > 73, Dick WC1M
> >

> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I'm considering modifying an Alpha 87 using a Jennings RJA-26 vacuum relay in place of the TX pin diode. This 87 is an early, non-factory, modified amplifier with only one Pin diode in the TX path. The amp was never set to Alpha 15 years ago when the pin diode upgrade was done free of charge. Now they want as much as $2000 to do the modifications.
> > >
> > > Has anyone tried this modification? Are schematics available?
> > >
> > > Jack WA9FVP
> > >
> >
>

1069. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 14:11:24 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1069

There's a test connector on the low voltage power supply that's not populated. All of the voltages including the keying signal "/T" are available at the connector. The Jennings relay has a 26 volt coil therefor I will use a series resistor to drop the voltage. /T will turn on an opto coupler and and a transistor or two to control the relay. The minus 109 volt supply to the tx diode will be disconnected (it's no longer needed). The receive bias voltages, the receive pin diode and the 6 coupling capacitors will still be intact.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Just out of curiosity, where are you going to get the DC voltage to operate the vacuum relay?
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:

1070. Re: Jennings Vacuum Relay Mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-03 14:22:29 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1053 Message: 1070

Hi Glenn,

Thank you for your clarification and please accept my apology for mis quoting you. My goal is to install the relay in such a way that when Barry's budget allows, the relay modification can be removed and he can send the amplifier to the factory for the upgrade. After examining the schematics I have to admit that the 87A was well built and as far a technology is concerned, it was way ahead of it's time.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics
(Sent from my iPad)

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> I am the technician that spoke to Jack and his friend for 24 minutes on the
> telephone. A lot of technical information was discussed.
>
> I explained the following verbally and am posting it to this reflector to
> clear up any misquotations and for anyone interested in how the 87A works:
>
> The bias voltage (900 plus VDC) on the receive PIN diodes is to insure
> diode cutoff when the amp is transmitting 1500w into a high SWR, the worst
> case. The transmit PIN diodes, forward biased ON during transmit, use a
> much lower voltage to cut them off during receive, isolating the tank
> circuit from the receive signal path to prevent signal loss (sometimes
> called suckout).
>
> When the 87A is in STANDBY, the entire PIN diode T/R circuit is bypassed by
> two relays.
>
> I have worked at Alpha since 1998 (Alpha/Power, Crosslink, and RF
> Concepts). We, and I in particular, take a great interest in the history,
> repair and maintenance of Alpha amplifiers.
>
> The original single PIN diode was replaced very early in production. Those
> diodes were no longer available sometime before 1998 when I started working
> there. For availability reasons, the 87A circuit was changed to dual
> transmit PIN diodes (and much higher bias voltages) after the first year of
> production (1991/92).
>
> ETO, and then Alpha/Power, did the conversion at no charge until 2001 when
> the company changed hands. Eight years of updates at the company's expense
> was a big commitment to customers. Very few companies stand by their
> products even close to this long. RF Concepts still services amps no
> longer in production.
>

> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>

1071. Joining the club

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-04 07:39:15 UTC
From: rob
Topic: 1071 Message: 1071

My "new" to me Alpha arrived today and after a very thorough look at the amplifier, I was able to determine that true to RF Concepts word, the amplifier is MINT including the latest modes. It's one of the very first off the factory floor.

I'm ready to power it up but would like a pointer to programming the individual segments.

I remember reading "somewhere" on the net, that I had to be keying my transceiver to store the correct values into each of the segments.

Can someone point please point me in the right direction?

-rob N7QT

1072. Re: [Alpha87a] Joining the club

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-04 15:34:33 UTC
From: Rick Craig
Topic: 1071 Message: 1072

The manual has instructions for manually tuning
the amp to match your antennas and storing the
settings in the memory. It's pretty straight
forward and you can either use your stored values
or the default values. If you don't have the
manual, you can down-load it from the Alpha web-site.

73 Rick, N6ND

At 11:39 PM 2/3/2012, you wrote:
>
>
>My "new" to me Alpha arrived today and after a
>very thorough look at the amplifier, I was able
>to determine that true to RF Concepts word, the
>amplifier is MINT including the latest modes.
>It's one of the very first off the factory floor.
>
>I'm ready to power it up but would like a
>pointer to programming the individual segments.
>
>I remember reading "somewhere" on the net, that
>I had to be keying my transceiver to store the
>correct values into each of the segments.
>
>Can someone point please point me in the right direction?
>
>-rob N7QT
>
>

1073. Re: Joining the club

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-04 19:02:34 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1071 Message: 1073

You don't have to be transmitting in order to store the tuning parameters. Pressing Enter and then the segment button stores the current positions of the Tune and Load capacitors. You do have to transmit in order to move the Tune and Load caps to the proper position (i.e., to tune), but after you do that you can stop transmitting and store the parameters.

The procedure is well-documented in the operating manual, which you can find here:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> My "new" to me Alpha arrived today and after a very thorough look at the amplifier, I was able to determine that true to RF Concepts word, the amplifier is MINT including the latest modes. It's one of the very first off the factory floor.
>
> I'm ready to power it up but would like a pointer to programming the individual segments.
>
> I remember reading "somewhere" on the net, that I had to be keying my transceiver to store the correct values into each of the segments.
>
> Can someone point please point me in the right direction?
>
> -rob N7QT
>

1074. Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-05 18:27:14 UTC
From: rob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1074

I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:

At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?

The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.

On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?

If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.

-rob N7QT

1075. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-06 02:42:38 UTC
From: rob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1075

I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.

Any thoughts?

-rob N7QT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:
>
> At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
>
> The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
>
> On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
>
> If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
>
>
> -rob N7QT
>

1076. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-07 13:01:35 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1076

The problem you are describing sounds very much like the
one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of
completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not
PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,
unfortunately...

73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.
>
> Any thoughts?
>
> -rob N7QT
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> >
> > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:
> >
> > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
> >
> > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
> >
> > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
> >
> > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
> >
> >
> > -rob N7QT
> >
>

1077. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-07 15:38:20 UTC
From: rob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1077

Bob,
I called Molly yesterday, and she followed up with her lead tech and replied back to me.

The tech said that on some of the 87A exhibit this behaviour on the transition from standby to transmit. The LEDs are not displaying the true grid current in that transition, as there is none in the case of grounding the PTT w/o the transceiver inline. Therefore, they said not to worry and that there is no damage being done to the tubes. I'll try to find the email and post it back to the group. The tech was not aware of any mods done to correct this problem. The email gave me the impression like some 87A's exhibit this behaviour and others don't.

Take a look at one of the older videos on youtube where Dick the founder of ETO is giving demonstrations of the 87A. I saw his amp displaying this behaviour as well. Other 87A demos on youTube didn't show this behaviour. Go figure...

-rob

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@...> wrote:
>
>
> The problem you are describing sounds very much like the
> one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of
> completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not
> PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,
> unfortunately...
>
> 73,
>
> Bob WA4FOM
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> >
> > I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.
> >
> > Any thoughts?
> >
> > -rob N7QT
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:

> > >
> > > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
> > >
> > > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
> > >
> > > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
> > >
> > > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
> > >
> > >
> > > -rob N7QT
> > >
> >
>

1078. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-07 19:17:44 UTC
From: rob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1078

Here is Molly's reply...

****
"I spoke to our lead 87A technician and he says that what you are seeing is simply generated inside the amp as a result of the transition to operate. It is not actual grid current and it does no harm at all. The transition will be different on different amps and although it is always there, you may not catch it on the LEDs on some amps, particularly as part of a movie. So the bottom line is that this is no cause for concern and doesn't affect the functioning of your tubes or your amp."
****

Hope this helps ease your concern Bob. In fact, I just spoke to a friend of mine who has a late model 87A and he doesn't see this behavior when he trips the PTT with no power applied. Might be the older amps like mine have this behavior and the newer ones were corrected with a schematic change along the way. Just not sure

-rob

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> Bob,
> I called Molly yesterday, and she followed up with her lead tech and replied back to me.
>
> The tech said that on some of the 87A exhibit this behaviour on the transition from standby to transmit. The LEDs are not displaying the true grid current in that transition, as there is none in the case of grounding the PTT w/o the transceiver inline. Therefore, they said not to worry and that there is no damage being done to the tubes. I'll try to find the email and post it back to the group. The tech was not aware of any mods done to correct this problem. The email gave me the impression like some 87A's exhibit this behaviour and others don't.
>
> Take a look at one of the older videos on youtube where Dick the founder of ETO is giving demonstrations of the 87A. I saw his amp displaying this behaviour as well. Other 87A demos on youTube didn't show this behaviour. Go figure...
>
> -rob
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > The problem you are describing sounds very much like the
> > one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of
> > completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not
> > PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,
> > unfortunately...

> >
> > 73,
> >
> > Bob WA4FOM
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.
> > >
> > > Any thoughts?
> > >
> > > -rob N7QT
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:
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> > > > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
> > > >
> > > > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
> > > >
> > > > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
> > > >
> > > > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > -rob N7QT
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

1079. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-08 12:17:03 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1043 Message: 1079

Mine does it. It was built in 1995. Still has the original tubes, even after a lot of heavy contest work over the last 12 years or so.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> Here is Molly's reply...
>
> **********
> "I spoke to our lead 87A technician and he says that what you are seeing is simply generated inside the amp as a result of the transition to operate. It is not actual grid current and it does no harm at all. The transition will be different on different amps and although it is always there, you may not catch it on the LEDs on some amps, particularly as part of a movie. So the bottom line is that this is no cause for concern and doesn't affect the functioning of your tubes or your amp."
> **********
>
>
> Hope this helps ease your concern Bob. In fact, I just spoke to a friend of mine who has a late model 87A and he doesn't see this behavior when he trips the PTT with no power applied. Might be the older amps like mine have this behavior and the newer ones were corrected with a schematic change along the way. Just not sure
>
> -rob
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> >
> > Bob,
> > I called Molly yesterday, and she followed up with her lead tech and replied back to me.
> >
> > The tech said that on some of the 87A exhibit this behaviour on the transition from standby to transmit. The LEDs are not displaying the true grid current in that transition, as there is none in the case of grounding the PTT w/o the transceiver inline. Therefore, they said not to worry and that there is no damage being done to the tubes. I'll try to find the email and post it back to the group. The tech was not aware of any mods done to correct this problem. The email gave me the impression like some 87A's exhibit this behaviour and others don't.
> >
> > Take a look at one of the older videos on youtube where Dick the founder of ETO is giving demonstrations of the 87A. I saw his amp displaying this behaviour as well. Other 87A demos on youTube didn't show this behaviour. Go figure...
> >
> > -rob

> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@> wrote:
> > >
> > >
> > > The problem you are describing sounds very much like the
> > > one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of
> > > completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not
> > > PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,
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> > >
> > > 73,
> > >
> > > Bob WA4FOM
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
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> > > > I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.
> > > >
> > > > Any thoughts?
> > > >
> > > > -rob N7QT
> > > >
> > > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:
> > > > >
> > > > > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
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> > > > > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
> > > > >
> > > > > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
> > > > >
> > > > > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
> > > > >
> > > > >
> > > > > -rob N7QT
> > > > >
> > > >
> > >

> >
>

1080. Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-09 17:24:55 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1043 Message: 1080

In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem is when I power the amplifier on. Initially (before the power on sequence completes) the grid current may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT is not grounded. I suspect my problem is different from Rob's; please confirm.

Thanks and 73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> Bob,
> I called Molly yesterday, and she followed up with her lead tech and replied back to me.
>
> The tech said that on some of the 87A exhibit this behaviour on the transition from standby to transmit. The LEDs are not displaying the true grid current in that transition, as there is none in the case of grounding the PTT w/o the transceiver inline. Therefore, they said not to worry and that there is no damage being done to the tubes. I'll try to find the email and post it back to the group. The tech was not aware of any mods done to correct this problem. The email gave me the impression like some 87A's exhibit this behaviour and others don't.
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> Take a look at one of the older videos on youtube where Dick the founder of ETO is giving demonstrations of the 87A. I saw his amp displaying this behaviour as well. Other 87A demos on youTube didn't show this behaviour. Go figure...
>
> -rob
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > The problem you are describing sounds very much like the
> > one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of
> > completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not
> > PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,
> > unfortunately...
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> > 73,
> >

> > Bob WA4FOM
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
> > >
> > > I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.
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> > > Any thoughts?
> > >
> > > -rob N7QT
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> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:
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> > > > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:
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> > > > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?
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> > > > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.
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> > > > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?
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> > > > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.
> > > >
> > > >
> > > > -rob N7QT
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

1081. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-09 18:08:24 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1043 Message: 1081

Yes, this is a different problem.

Have you looked at the plate current or voltage during these transitions. If they indicate no change then I would think it's an isolated problem with the grid current LED circuit.
-rob N7QT.

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: bobdobson@...
Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2012 17:24:55 +0000
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A transmit grid current question

In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current

transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem

is when I power the amplifier on. Initially (before

the power on sequence completes) the grid current

may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero

and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes

powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays

there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT

is not grounded. I suspect my problem is different from

Rob's; please confirm.

Thanks and 73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@...> wrote:

>

> Bob,

> I called Molly yesterday, and she followed up with her lead tech and replied back to me.

>

> The tech said that on some of the 87A exhibit this behaviour on the transition from standby to transmit. The LEDs are not displaying the true grid current in that transition, as there is none in the case of grounding the PTT w/o the transceiver inline. Therefore, they said not to worry and that there is no damage being done to the tubes. I'll try to find the email and post it back to the group. The tech was not aware of any mods done to

correct this problem. The email gave me the impression like some 87A's exhibit this behaviour and others don't.

>

> Take a look at one of the older videos on youtube where Dick the founder of ETO is giving demonstrations of the 87A. I saw his amp displaying this behaviour as well. Other 87A demos on youTube didn't show this behaviour. Go figure...

>

> -rob

>

> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@> wrote:

> >

> >

> > The problem you are describing sounds very much like the

> > one I posted a few days ago (see "Alpha 87A idling grid current question". Mine jumps to 70 mA within a few minutes of

> > completing the power-up sequence and does it whether or not

> > PTT is grounded. No joy yet in the reply department,

> > unfortunately...

> >

> > 73,

> >

> > Bob WA4FOM

> >

> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:

> > >

> > > I just disconnected the transceiver from the amp, then manually grounded the amps PTT and the current spike is evident (0-70 and back). So the amp is generating the spike even with no input power.

> > >

> > > Any thoughts?

> > >

> > > -rob N7QT

> > >

> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "rob" <rfanfant@> wrote:

> > > >

> > > > I also have a quick question concerning grid current. My newly purchased Alpha 87a has just arrived. Today I got it on the air for the very first time and I've only had 2 CW QSO(s) on 40M, but I noticed the following:

> > > >

> > > > At the start of every CW transmission, the grid current LED starts at 0 quickly running up to and peaking at 70ma, then quickly settling back down 30ma. The 0-70ma, then back to 30ma LED movement happens in less than half a second. Is this normal?

> > > >

> > > > The individual band segments have been programmed and AlphaMax enabled. The tune indicator is always centered throughout the transmission. The amp is creating 1.5KW on 45W drive.

> > > >

> > > > On a side note, I do find the amp to be somewhat noisier than my Alpha 86, probably because of the external muffin fan. Is the muffin fan necessary?

> > > >

> > > > If so, I'll consider using the remote software to remote the amp a bit further away.

> > > >

> > > >

> > > > -rob N7QT

> > > >

> > >

> >

>

1082. Alpha 87A Jennings Modification

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-10 21:34:46 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1082 Message: 1082

The Jennings RJ1A-26 is installed in Barry's (N2BJ) 87A and it works perfectly. There were a few issues like insuring that the relay timings fall well within the RF envelope and fooling the CPU so that it still detects that a diode is present but it was a doable.

Barry can now run full QSK with no timing issues and he doesn't have to worry about the pin diodes failing.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics.

1083. Re: Alpha 87A Jennings Modification

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-11 23:03:27 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1082 Message: 1083

Jack,

Could you give us more detail on how you adjusted the relay timing and fooled the CPU so it still detected that a diode is present? Even those of us with the two-diode design will want to keep this alternative on file in case we lose a TX PIN diode. They're $125 apiece!

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> The Jennings RJ1A-26 is installed in Barry's (N2BJ) 87A and it works perfectly. There were a few issues like insuring that the relay timings fall well within the RF envelope and fooling the CPU so that it still detects that a diode is present but it was a doable.
>
> Barry can now run full QSK with no timing issues and he doesn't have to worry about the pin diodes failing.
>
> Jack WA9FVP
> Willco Electronics.
>

1085. Re: Alpha 87A Jennings Modification

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-12 03:29:21 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1082 Message: 1085

I don't have all of the documentation ready for release. It required the addition of a relay driver circuit a few cuts and jumpers and the addition of a general purpose diode. The biggest problem is that the documentation won't match your 87A.

The modification that I did was on an early production unit that has a single TX, pin diode. The dual pin diode units are different in that the power supply was redesigned, the receive pin diode bias voltages are 900 volts (on the cathode) and some components were removed on the output O/I board and populated dual pin diode board.

The circuit I added (to fool the CPU so that the TX pin diode is still there) might change. The other problem is the cost. I sent an RFQ to Jennings for 10 relays. they quoted me a price of $235 each.

The good news is, the relay I selected, had a delay of 1.8 ms on the NO and NC pins. I configured my Elecraft K3 for QRQ, full break-in and the total "key down" delay was about 5 ms. The RF envelope fell perfectly within the key-down/key-up time. I'll up-load the scope image to the photo section.

I wired the NC pin to the receive path and during transmit, there's no RF at all getting to the receive pin diodes. If the firmware didn't detect the receive pin diode current(I think it does) the 900 volt bias wouldn't be needed.

Jack WA9FVP
Willco Electronics

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Jack,
>
> Could you give us more detail on how you adjusted the relay timing and fooled the CPU so it still detected that a diode is present? Even those of us with the two-diode design will want to keep this alternative on file in case we lose a TX PIN diode. They're $125 apiece!
>
>

1086. Loud Crunch on Warm-Up Causing Shut Down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-12 16:52:05 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 1086 Message: 1086

During a 3 min warmup - my amp made a sickenly loud cruching thump and shut down. Via RS232 software the amp shows last hard fault was 16. I was not sending any RF into the amp during the warmup and it was in the STBY mode. No smoke and I turned the amp back on, verfied Amp was showing about 2600vdc in stdby and then switched to operate and slowly tested it for output bringing it up very slowly into a dummyload on all bands finally to full 1500w out. Seems to be fine now and made a few contacts without problems.

Is there anything I can do diagnotically to see if this was some kind of early warning signal for something worse to come?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1088. Re: Loud Crunch on Warm-Up Causing Shut Down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-12 18:02:45 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1086 Message: 1088

It could be a bad tube, the cathode bias voltage is low, R29 on the high voltage power supply changed value or U2 and surrounding components are defective. But I'm sure it's something else. I'm just guessing:-)

The bottom line is that there's a high voltage arc or some component either on the high voltage side causing high current or a false indication of high current. The loud thump could be a high voltage arc.

Jack Albert WA9FVP
Willco Electronics
--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> During a 3 min warmup - my amp made a sickenly loud cruching thump and shut down. Via RS232 software the amp shows last hard fault was 16. I was not sending any RF into the amp during the warmup and it was in the STBY mode. No smoke and I turned the amp back on, verfied Amp was showing about 2600vdc in stdby and then switched to operate and slowly tested it for output bringing it up very slowly into a dummyload on all bands finally to full 1500w out. Seems to be fine now and made a few contacts without problems.
>
> Is there anything I can do diagnotically to see if this was some kind of early warning signal for something worse to come?
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>

1089. Re: Loud Crunch on Warm-Up Causing Shut Down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-12 18:32:48 UTC
From: willcoele@ameritech.net
Topic: 1086 Message: 1089

There's also a silver mica, cathode capacitor (C18) on the tube deck that could have a voltage breakdown.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
>
> It could be a bad tube, the cathode bias voltage is low, R29 on the high
> voltage power supply changed value or U2 and surrounding components are
> defective. But I'm sure it's something else. I'm just guessing:-)
>
> The bottom line is that there's a high voltage arc or some component either on the high voltage side causing high current or a false indication of high current. The loud thump could be a high voltage arc.
>
>
>
> Jack Albert WA9FVP
> Willco Electronics
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@> wrote:
> >
> > During a 3 min warmup - my amp made a sickenly loud cruching thump and shut down. Via RS232 software the amp shows last hard fault was 16. I was not sending any RF into the amp during the warmup and it was in the STBY mode. No smoke and I turned the amp back on, verfied Amp was showing about 2600vdc in stdby and then switched to operate and slowly tested it for output bringing it up very slowly into a dummyload on all bands finally to full 1500w out. Seems to be fine now and made a few contacts without problems.
> >
> > Is there anything I can do diagnotically to see if this was some kind of early warning signal for something worse to come?
> >
> > 73 Jerry
> > K1JOS
> >
>

1090. Re: Loud Crunch on Warm-Up Causing Shut Down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-20 00:17:51 UTC
From: jsternmd
Topic: 1086 Message: 1090

The amp has worked for several hours fine since the "incident". Am I being reckless to keep doing so? The amp has so many protection features, will I create more harm by a watch and see approach or should i be digging further now?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@..." <willcoele@...> wrote:
>
> There's also a silver mica, cathode capacitor (C18) on the tube deck that could have a voltage breakdown.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> >
> >
> > It could be a bad tube, the cathode bias voltage is low, R29 on the high
> > voltage power supply changed value or U2 and surrounding components are
> > defective. But I'm sure it's something else. I'm just guessing:-)
> >
> > The bottom line is that there's a high voltage arc or some component either on the high voltage side causing high current or a false indication of high current. The loud thump could be a high voltage arc.
> >
> >
> >
> > Jack Albert WA9FVP
> > Willco Electronics
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@> wrote:
> > >
> > > During a 3 min warmup - my amp made a sickenly loud cruching thump and shut down. Via RS232 software the amp shows last hard fault was 16. I was not sending any RF into the amp during the warmup and it was in the STBY mode. No smoke and I turned the amp back on, verfied Amp was showing about 2600vdc in stdby and then switched to operate and slowly tested it for output bringing it up very slowly into a dummyload on all bands finally to full 1500w out. Seems to be fine now and made a few contacts without problems.
> > >
> > > Is there anything I can do diagnotically to see if this was some kind of early warning signal for something worse to come?
> > >
> > > 73 Jerry
> > > K1JOS
> > >
> >
>

1091. Re: Loud Crunch on Warm-Up Causing Shut Down

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-20 12:02:10 UTC
From: bob_5b4agn
Topic: 1086 Message: 1091

Jerry

In over 18 years of heavy use my 87A has had a few such hard faults. I don't pay them too much attention unless they are recurrent. Most likely your fault was due to a tube flash-over. This often happens in perfectly good tubes when they are new and in older ones which haven't been used for a time.

The 87A protection circuits are both comprehensive and effective. You can rely upon them.

In similar circumstances, I would continue to use the amp. I doubt you will find a fault even if you look carefully.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@...> wrote:
>
> The amp has worked for several hours fine since the "incident". Am I being reckless to keep doing so? The amp has so many protection features, will I create more harm by a watch and see approach or should i be digging further now?
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> >
> > There's also a silver mica, cathode capacitor (C18) on the tube deck that could have a voltage breakdown.
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "willcoele@" <willcoele@> wrote:
> > >
> > >
> > > It could be a bad tube, the cathode bias voltage is low, R29 on the high
> > > voltage power supply changed value or U2 and surrounding components are
> > > defective. But I'm sure it's something else. I'm just guessing:-)
> > >
> > > The bottom line is that there's a high voltage arc or some component either on the high voltage side causing high current or a false indication of high current. The loud thump could be a high voltage arc.
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > Jack Albert WA9FVP
> > > Willco Electronics
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd" <wb2orj@> wrote:
> > > >
> > > > During a 3 min warmup - my amp made a sickenly loud cruching thump and shut down.

Via RS232 software the amp shows last hard fault was 16. I was not sending any RF into the amp during the warmup and it was in the STBY mode. No smoke and I turned the amp back on, verfied Amp was showing about 2600vdc in stdby and then switched to operate and slowly tested it for output bringing it up very slowly into a dummyload on all bands finally to full 1500w out. Seems to be fine now and made a few contacts without problems.
> > > >
> > > > Is there anything I can do diagnotically to see if this was some kind of early warning signal for something worse to come?
> > > >
> > > > 73 Jerry
> > > > K1JOS
> > > >
> > >
> >
>

1092. Alpha 87A high grid current after power-up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-24 07:39:51 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1092 Message: 1092

Hello, all! This is a "re-post" of a problem I have been having with my Alpha 87A. I haven't received any suggestions as to what specifically I can try to resolve this, so I thought I would try again.

In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem occurs shortly after I power the amplifier on. Initially (before the power on sequence completes) the grid current may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT is not grounded.

Thanks and 73,

Bob WA4FOM

1093. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A high grid current after power-up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-24 12:52:21 UTC
From: Thomas Smith
Topic: 1092 Message: 1093

Call Molly at RF Concepts ... 303-473-9232
On Fri, Feb 24, 2012 at 12:39 AM, Bob <bobdobson@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
>
> Hello, all! This is a "re-post" of a problem I
> have been having with my Alpha 87A. I haven't
> received any suggestions as to what specifically
> I can try to resolve this, so I thought I would
> try again.
>
> In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current
> transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem
> occurs shortly after I power the amplifier on. Initially
> (before the power on sequence completes) the grid current
> may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero
> and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes
> powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays
> there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT
> is not grounded.
>
> Thanks and 73,
>
> Bob WA4FOM
>
>
>

--
de KA5CDJ, T. Brad Smith, http://www.ka5cdj.com
M.A.R.I.E. El Paso http://www.w5dpd.org
Life Member ARRL http://www.arrl.org
Life Member Texas VHF/FM Society txvhffm.org
Life Member QCWA http://www.qcwa.org/
Member Armadillo Intertie http://www.armadillo.org
Member Jacks Peak ARA http://www.jpara.net
Member Sun City Amateur Radio Club http://www.k5wph.org
Trustee, Treasurer & Web Master of West Texas Repeater Association
http://www.k5elp.com

1094. Re: Alpha 87A high grid current after power-up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-24 20:51:28 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1092 Message: 1094

What happens when you properly tune the amp into a resonant antenna and then transmit at high power? Does grid current go way over 70 mA, or does it stay at that value?

I still believe this is a problem with either the grid current display or monitoring circuits. The LED chain uses a standard LM3914 bar-dot graph driver (U3 on the Display board behind the font panel. It's certainly possible that after a few minutes of warmup, that chip is going bad and lighting up LEDs when there's no input voltage.

Or, it could be a bad active component in the grid current measurement chain, for example U3 on the Low Voltage Power Supply board or one of the active components in the +/-36V monitoring circuit. That seems a little less likely to me because the chip is involved in ALC and you would probably see reduced output if it was generating incorrect voltage.

I would email or call RF Concepts and ask for their opinion. They've probably seen something like this before. If you can't get results that way, try replacing U3 on the Display board. If that doesn't work, try replacing U3 on the Low Voltage power supply board. That's more difficult, as it takes a bit of work to get the LVPS out.

AS ALWAYS, UNLPLUG THE AMP BEFORE WORKING ON IT AND PUT THE COVER BACK ON BEFORE PLUGGING IT BACK IN. THERE ARE LETHAL VOLTAGES IN THE AMP. If you aren't accustomed to this sort of work, don't try it.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hello, all! This is a "re-post" of a problem I
> have been having with my Alpha 87A. I haven't
> received any suggestions as to what specifically
> I can try to resolve this, so I thought I would
> try again.
>
>
> In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current
> transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem
> occurs shortly after I power the amplifier on. Initially
> (before the power on sequence completes) the grid current
> may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero
> and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes
> powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays
> there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT
> is not grounded.
>
> Thanks and 73,
>

> Bob WA4FOM
>

1095. Re: Alpha 87A high grid current after power-up

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-02-25 12:04:44 UTC
From: Bob
Topic: 1092 Message: 1095

Dick:

Thanks for the quick and thorough reply; this is the sort of help I've been looking for. The grid current stays at that value even when transmitting into a 50 ohm load.

I'm going to look into replacing the LM3914's you mentioned. Believe it or not, I have some in my junk box (I have a really nice junk box). :)

Thanks again for the help.

73,

Bob WA4FOM

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> What happens when you properly tune the amp into a resonant antenna and then transmit at high power? Does grid current go way over 70 mA, or does it stay at that value?
>
> I still believe this is a problem with either the grid current display or monitoring circuits. The LED chain uses a standard LM3914 bar-dot graph driver (U3 on the Display board behind the font panel. It's certainly possible that after a few minutes of warmup, that chip is going bad and lighting up LEDs when there's no input voltage.
>
> Or, it could be a bad active component in the grid current measurement chain, for example U3 on the Low Voltage Power Supply board or one of the active components in the +/-36V monitoring circuit. That seems a little less likely to me because the chip is involved in ALC and you would probably see reduced output if it was generating incorrect voltage.
>
> I would email or call RF Concepts and ask for their opinion. They've probably seen something like this before. If you can't get results that way, try replacing U3 on the Display board. If that doesn't work, try replacing U3 on the Low Voltage power supply board. That's more difficult, as it takes a bit of work to get the LVPS out.
>
> AS ALWAYS, UNLPLUG THE AMP BEFORE WORKING ON IT AND PUT THE COVER BACK ON BEFORE PLUGGING IT BACK IN. THERE ARE LETHAL VOLTAGES IN THE AMP. If you aren't accustomed to this sort of work, don't try it.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Bob" <bobdobson@> wrote:
> >
> >

> > Hello, all! This is a "re-post" of a problem I
> > have been having with my Alpha 87A. I haven't
> > received any suggestions as to what specifically
> > I can try to resolve this, so I thought I would
> > try again.
> >
> >
> > In my case, it's not a problem with the grid current
> > transitioning from receive to transmit. The problem
> > occurs shortly after I power the amplifier on. Initially
> > (before the power on sequence completes) the grid current
> > may be at zero or I've seen it flicker between zero
> > and 35 mA. After a minute or two AFTER the amp finishes
> > powering up, the grid current goes to 70 mA and stays
> > there forever. This is with no RF power applied and PTT
> > is not grounded.
> >
> > Thanks and 73,
> >
> > Bob WA4FOM
> >
>

1096. Alpha 87A Communication Release 5.1.1 (BETA)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-03-30 12:10:15 UTC
From: hb9zs
Topic: 1096 Message: 1096

You will find a new release (5.1.1) of the Alpha 87A communication program on my home page.

The program now supports the N1MM logging program with UPD communication. Please read the description.

If you don't use the N1MM logger, please do not change the software release.

I tested the program in the WPX contest with great success.

I'm very appreciating your comments.

Walter, HB9ZS

1097. 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-16 02:33:02 UTC
From: k2wd@comcast.net
Topic: 1097 Message: 1097

Has anyone fabricated their own serial cable to raise the 87A's serial data speed from 4800 baud to 9600 baud?

I tried to use a standard AT Modem cable (DB9F to DB25M), but since a standard AT cable wires pin 9 of the pc end to pin 22 of the Alpha end, it appears the 87A is interogating this as a "low", and setting the 87A to 300 baud, which is almost useless for remote control.

If you did fabricate your own cable to force the 87A to 9600 baud, how did you pull the three pins (9,12,22) Did you jumper them to pin 7 (ground), or did you actually tie them to another pin that was actually rs232 low (-12v)?

Thanks
Eric
K2CB

1098. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-16 08:24:40 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1097 Message: 1098

Connect the 3 pins to ground and it will work 9600bps.

73s Tadej S52X

2012/4/16 <k2wd@...>

> **
>
>
> Has anyone fabricated their own serial cable to raise the 87A's serial
> data speed from 4800 baud to 9600 baud?
>
> I tried to use a standard AT Modem cable (DB9F to DB25M), but since a
> standard AT cable wires pin 9 of the pc end to pin 22 of the Alpha end, it
> appears the 87A is interogating this as a "low", and setting the 87A to 300
> baud, which is almost useless for remote control.
>
> If you did fabricate your own cable to force the 87A to 9600 baud, how did
> you pull the three pins (9,12,22) Did you jumper them to pin 7 (ground), or
> did you actually tie them to another pin that was actually rs232 low (-12v)?
>
> Thanks
> Eric
> K2CB
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1099. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-16 11:33:56 UTC
From: John Elsik
Topic: 1097 Message: 1099
Attachments: 10 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

```
ALPHA 87A RS232 CABLE

87A COMPUTER

DB25M DB9F

2---------------W/BU------------3

3-----------------BU--------------2

4---------------W/O--------------7

5------------------O---------------8

7------------------G---------------5

1---------------SHIELD---------

9

12

22
```

You will have to make your own cable up I would think. This is how my two 87A cables are wired (Cat6 shielded).

73 John wa5zup

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of k2wd@...
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 8:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

Has anyone fabricated their own serial cable to raise the 87A's serial data speed from 4800 baud to 9600 baud?

I tried to use a standard AT Modem cable (DB9F to DB25M), but since a standard AT cable wires pin 9 of the pc end to pin 22 of the Alpha end, it appears the 87A is interogating this as a "low", and setting the 87A to 300 baud, which is almost useless for remote control.

If you did fabricate your own cable to force the 87A to 9600 baud, how did you pull the three pins (9,12,22) Did you jumper them to pin 7 (ground), or did you actually tie them to another pin that was actually rs232 low (-12v)?

Thanks
Eric
K2CB

1100. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-16 11:36:46 UTC
From: John Elsik
Topic: 1097 Message: 1100
Attachments: 5 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

OOPs the formatting did not come out right. 9,12,22 to pin 7(gnd)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of John Elsik
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 5:34 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

ALPHA 87A RS232 CABLE

87A COMPUTER

DB25M DB9F

2----------W/BU----------3

3----------BU----------2

4----------W/O----------7

5----------O----------8

7----------G----------5

1----------SHIELD---------

9

12

22

You will have to make your own cable up I would think. This is how my two 87A cables are wired (Cat6 shielded).

73 John wa5zup

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of k2wd@...
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 8:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A serial port wiring

Has anyone fabricated their own serial cable to raise the 87A's serial data speed from 4800 baud to 9600 baud?

I tried to use a standard AT Modem cable (DB9F to DB25M), but since a standard AT cable wires pin 9 of the pc end to pin 22 of the Alpha end, it

appears the 87A is interogating this as a "low", and setting the 87A to 300 baud, which is almost useless for remote control.

If you did fabricate your own cable to force the 87A to 9600 baud, how did you pull the three pins (9,12,22) Did you jumper them to pin 7 (ground), or did you actually tie them to another pin that was actually rs232 low (-12v)?

Thanks
Eric
K2CB

1101. Re: 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-17 13:06:16 UTC
From: k2wd@comcast.net
Topic: 1097 Message: 1101

Ok, thanks everyone.

I made up a cable last night with 9c 24ga shielded rs232 type cable.

73,
Eric
K2CB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, John Elsik <wa5zup@...> wrote:
>
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> Thanks
> Eric
> K2CB
>

1102. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-17 15:05:41 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1097 Message: 1102

Eric,
How are you remotely controlling your amp?

-rob

From: k2wd@...
Sent: 4/17/2012 6:06 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A serial port wiring

Ok, thanks everyone.

I made up a cable last night with 9c 24ga shielded rs232 type cable.

73,
Eric
K2CB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, John Elsik <wa5zup@...> wrote:
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> Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 5:34 AM
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> ALPHA 87A RS232 CABLE
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> DB25M DB9F
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>

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>
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>
> Thanks
> Eric
> K2CB
>

1103. Re: 87A serial port wiring

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-18 17:33:07 UTC
From: k2wd@comcast.net
Topic: 1097 Message: 1103

Rob,

I am using the HB9ZS remote software, found both here in the files section, and on his website. Nice program!

Eric
K2CB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Robert Fanfant <rfanfant@...> wrote:
>
> Eric,
> How are you remotely controlling your amp?
>
> -rob
>

1104. Fwd: [HeathKit_HFAmps] Digest Number 1722

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-04-24 16:01:16 UTC
From: jcowens1@comcast.net
Topic: 1104 Message: 1104

Andy:

FYI.

John Owens - N7TK

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: "HeathKit HFAmps" <HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com>
To: "HeathKit HFAmps" <HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 2:30:58 AM
Subject: [HeathKit_HFAmps] Digest Number 1722

SB-200, SB201, SB-220, SB-230, & SB-1000

SB-200, SB201, SB-220, SB-230, & SB-1000
Messages In This Digest (15 Messages)

1a. SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: pawnbroker55 1b. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Gudguyham@... 1c. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Carl 1d. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Chuck Chandler 1e. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Pawnbroker© 1f. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Ralph Mowery 1g. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: Carl 1h. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: David 1i. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: David 1j. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load From: David 2a. I love it ... you might not ... From: Chris Kochenour 2b. Re: I love it ... you might not ... From: David 3a. Re: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON P From: LOU HORTON 3b. Re: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON P From: Chuck 4a. Re: SB-230 and ALC From: W6CCD
View All Topics | Create New Topic Messages

1a. SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "pawnbroker55" pawnbroker@stny.rr.com pawnbroker55
Mon Apr 23, 2012 5:07 am (PDT)

I have a Heathkit SB-1000 that has been fitted with the AG6K retrofit kit. I have just recently rearranged the shack and the amp is now positioned so that I can see the 3-500 through the side vent holes while I am transmitting. I was quite alarmed to discover that the 3-500z quickly begins to glow red hot when I am transmitting and it also has a faint blue aura within the envelope as well when I am driving the amp at full (100 watts from 756 Pro III) load. I have done some research on the web and am a bit confused as to Whether or not this condition is normal for a 3-500 at full load. The operating parameters are as follows....

Primary Voltage 110 AC

Grid Current 180 ma.

Plate Current 460 ma.

RF Output >1000 watts

Plate Voltage 2600 VDC Standby 2000 Keyed at full load

I will greatly appreciate any thoughts that you all might share with me regarding this and offer you all my sincere thanks in advance for any feedback you may have. Best 73s! Sam KZ2W

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1b. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "Gudguyham@..." Gudguyham@... sixmqro
Mon Apr 23, 2012 5:23 am (PDT)

Something doesn't add up. It is really hard to get 1000 watts out of that amp with those readings. Your watt meter may be off. The readings are pretty close to safe numbers as far as grid and plate current but normally you can get those numbers with less than 100 watts drive. Usually driving that amp with 100 watts usually gives much higher readings. 100 watts should make 1KW output but with higher numbers on grid and plate currents. What does make sense is that with 100 watts drive a single 3-500 would certainly show color. Showing color is normal. The blue color you see in the tube is gas. If it is not causing any problem then hopefully during use it will dissipate as it getters.

In a message dated 4/23/2012 8:08:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, pawnbroker@... writes:

I have a Heathkit SB-1000 that has been fitted with the AG6K retrofit kit. I have just recently rearranged the shack and the amp is now positioned so that I can see the 3-500 through the side vent holes while I am transmitting. I was quite alarmed to discover that the 3-500z quickly begins to glow r ed hot when I am transmitting and it also has a faint blue aura within the envelope as well when I am driving the amp at full (100 watts from 756 Pro III) load. I have done some research on the web and am a bit confused as to Whether or not this condition is normal for a 3-500 at full load. The operating parameters are as follows....

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[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1c. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load

Posted by: "Carl" km1h@....com geoff8122
Mon Apr 23, 2012 6:27 am (PDT)

----- Original Message -----
From: pawnbroker55
To: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 8:07 AM
Subject: [HeathKit_HFAmps] SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load

I have a Heathkit SB-1000 that has been fitted with the AG6K retrofit kit. I have just recently rearranged the shack and the amp is now positioned so that I can see the 3-500 through the side vent holes while I am transmitting. I was quite alarmed to discover that the 3-500z quickly begins to glow red hot when I am transmitting and it also has a faint blue aura within the envelope as well when I am driving the amp at full (100 watts from 756 Pro III) load. I have done some research on the web and am a bit confused as to Whether or not this condition is normal for a 3-500 at full load. The operating parameters are as follows....

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** Is that measured? Typical lines these days are 120-125V

Grid Current 180 ma.

** A bit high, around 130-150 is better

Plate Current 460 ma.

** Also a bit high for longest life, 400ma is Eimacs recommendation. Drop the drive to around 75W max.

RF Output >1000 watts

** Id expect around 850W and see below.

Plate Voltage 2600 VDC Standby 2000 Keyed at full load

** Standby should be 3100V @ 120VAC, at full load about a 400V drop is normal. I suspect a combination of problems.

** Wattmeter accuracy.

** Out of tolerance resistors in the HV metering circuit. R-401, 402, 403, 404.

** Excessive leakage in the HV electrolytics. The last several SB-1000's Ive had in for service all had higher than comfortable leakage.

** A poor AC Line with insufficient wire capacity for that power. While a short 15A run (20-30') of #14 to the main panel is OK, many wander around in a daisy chain that is much longer.

I will greatly appreciate any thoughts that you all might share with me regarding this and offer you all my sincere thanks in advance for any feedback you may have. Best 73s! Sam KZ2W

** I would also not recommend using on the WARC bands without changing the plate choke. The current one from Ameritron is an exact fit. There are other common problems such as a tendency to arc the bandswitch on 160 that can be fixed with a brass washer.

Carl
KM1H

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1424 / Virus Database: 2411/4953 - Release Date: 04/22/12

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1d. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "Chuck Chandler" chandlerusm@... ws1l
Mon Apr 23, 2012 6:30 am (PDT)

I have an SB-1000 as well. I have in the past run it on 120 VAC and could drive it with about 60-70 watts before the Ip and Ig went too high for comfort. I can get just over a kw running it on a good 240 VAC circuit, driving it with about 70 watts, with an Ip of around 500-550 mA and Ig of 125-150 mA.

Seems to me that driving it with 100 Watts will produce about a kw out but I'd think the currents would be higher.

73 de Chuck, WS1L

On Mon, Apr 23, 2012 at 7:07 AM, pawnbroker55 < pawnbroker@... >wrote:

> **
>
>
> I have a Heathkit SB-1000 that has been fitted with the AG6K retrofit kit.
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> that I can see the 3-500 through the side vent holes while I am
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>
>
>

--

==========
Chuck Chandler
chandlerusm@...
==========

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1e. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "Pawnbroker©" pawnbroker@... pawnbroker55
Mon Apr 23, 2012 7:28 am (PDT)

My thanks to you Carl, as well as the others who have thus far responded! I agree that the numbers do not add up and certainly allow for the metering resistors being out of tolerance as well as my old Swan wattmeter not being accurate. I am simply reporting the numbers as I am seeing them. I did measure the AC input and it is 120 volts on a 20 amp circuit with a close to 80 foot home run to the panel. If it were closer and not a major pain I would have run a 220 volt line to supply the amp. I surmise that you are correct about the electrolytics having excessive leakage and think that replacing them would be a good plan. When I have it on the bench replacing the caps I will replace the metering resistors as well. I do use it on the WARC bands and have not had any noticeable problems other than slightly lower output but even that is negligible. I now learn that the original Heathkit plate choke is possibly resonate on 17 meters and should be replaced with the Ameritron equivalent. I see that RF Parts offers the Ameritron replacement part for $24.95. Can anyone recommend a good cost effective source for the caps? I see that a couple sites offer a kit of the 8 caps spoon fed but they seem a bit pricy. I have no doubt that new caps would bring the B+ back up to the proper value and reduce the amount of drop under load. Sam KZ2W

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** A poor AC Line with insufficient wire capacity for that power. While a short 15A run (20-30') of #14 to the main panel is OK, many wander around in a daisy chain that is much longer.

I will greatly appreciate any thoughts that you all might share with me regarding this and offer you all my sincere thanks in advance for any feedback you may have. Best 73s! Sam KZ2W

** I would also not recommend using on the WARC bands without changing the plate choke. The current one from Ameritron is an exact fit. There are other common problems such as a tendency to arc the bandswitch on 160 that can be fixed with a brass washer.

Carl
KM1H

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1424 / Virus Database: 2411/4953 - Release Date: 04/22/12

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1f. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "Ralph Mowery" ku4pt@... ku4pt
Mon Apr 23, 2012 8:32 am (PDT)

Sam,

Most of your numbers do not add up. The plate voltage is very low or the meter is way off which is what I suspect. If you take the 2000 volts and 460 ma , you only have less than 1000 watts input, you can not get 1000 watts out at that level.

I think you are over driving the amp. It should not take but about 70 watts or less to drive it to the maximum recommended power. About 800 watts out should be about all you should get out of the amp. The plate current should be 400 ma or less and the grid should be 130 ma or less.

If it is a 3-500 and not one of the 3-500z tubes, it should glow a dull red under full load, but not a bright red. All of the older 3-500 tubes should be ran red hot from time to time to get rid of the gass in the tube, That may be where the purple glow is comming from.

--- On Mon, 4/23/12, pawnbroker55 < pawnbroker@...m > wrote:

From: pawnbroker55 < pawnbroker@... >
Subject: [HeathKit_HFAmps] SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
To: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, April 23, 2012, 8:07 AM

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[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1g. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "Carl" km1h@... geoff8122
Mon Apr 23, 2012 12:04 pm (PDT)

I said Ameritron for a good reason Sam, they sell the choke for $20 plus the filter caps at around $13.50 each for the latest version which is 270uF. They have the two 1M metering resistors as well as a pair of 750K for the 1.5M in the AL-80B parts list, the 47K is a

generic 1/2W.

Id also toss that silly AG6K voodoo science crap as it serves no purpose except to suck up RF on 10-12M. Just get a 100 Ohm 2W Ohmite OY resistor from Mouser, etc and wind 3T #16 or 14 wire on it.

Carl
KM1H

----- Original Message -----
From: Pawnbroker©
To: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 10:29 AM
Subject: [HeathKit_HFAmps] RE: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load

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Carl
KM1H

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1424 / Virus Database: 2411/4953 - Release Date: 04/22/12

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 10.0.1424 / Virus Database: 2411/4954 - Release Date: 04/23/12

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

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Messages in this topic (10) 1h. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "David" wa6khh@... sd_dave
Tue Apr 24, 2012 1:22 am (PDT)

Pull out the “Measures Retrofit Kit” and give it another try. I’ve found that some “mods” aren’t all that helpful.

David, K6DMA

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1i. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "David" wa6khh@... sd_dave
Tue Apr 24, 2012 1:24 am (PDT)

FYI: You'll find a certain bias against even the mention of Mr. Measures or his call sign here. Be forewarned.

David, K6DMA

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 1j. Re: SB-1000 3-500z gets red hot at full load
Posted by: "David" wa6khh@... sd_dave
Tue Apr 24, 2012 1:26 am (PDT)

Carl,

You've attempted to copyright "Pawnbroker". Lots of luck with that.

David, K6DMA

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (10) 2a. I love it ... you might not ...
Posted by: "Chris Kochenour" ckochenour@... chriskochenour
Mon Apr 23, 2012 8:25 am (PDT)

Heathkit purists might not like this ... but, it sure is pleasing to my eye.
WD1WChris Kochenour

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (2) 2b. Re: I love it ... you might not ...
Posted by: "David" wa6khh@... sd_dave
Mon Apr 23, 2012 8:47 pm (PDT)

Chris,

Your message was stripped of whatever you attached.

DavidK6DMA

From: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
[mailto: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Chris Kochenour
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 8:25 AM
To: heathkit_hfamps@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [HeathKit_HFAmps] I love it ... you might not ...

Heathkit purists might not like this ... but, it sure is pleasing to my eye.
WD1WChris Kochenour

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (2) 3a. Re: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON P
Posted by: "LOU HORTON" Lhorton@... n3222p
Mon Apr 23, 2012 2:21 pm (PDT)

Thanks Van, took less than one minute !!

http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-anten
na-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers

The complete link worked great..

Lou wa5bng

From: van wd8aam [mailto: vlincoln@...]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 4:03 PM
To: LOU HORTON
Subject: RE: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS

I put the FULL URL into the message
Van wd8aam

At 19:31 4/23/2012, you wrote:

Anybody else having trouble going to the link below?

Lou wa5bng

From: heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto:heathkit%40yahoogroups.com> [
mailto: heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto: heathkit@yahoogroups.com >] On
Behalf
Of van wd8aam
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 1:57 PM
To: Heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Heathkit%40yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS

>Authentication-Results:
>mx02.dlls.pa.frontiernet.net; dkim=pass
>(signature verified) header.i=@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:header.i%3D%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:header.i%3D%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: header.i=@yahoogroups.com > >
>DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256;
>c=relaxed/relaxed; d=yahoogroups.com; s=lima;
>t=1335205061;
>bh=62cS0Pww90Og2zuVf9uoQ50M5EiRdskpjomeRNcitqY=;

>h=Received:Received:X-Yahoo-Newman-Id:X-Sender:X-Apparently-To:X-Received:X
-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-YMail-OSG
:X-Received:X-Mailer:References:Message-ID:To:X-Originating-IP:X-eGroups-Msg
-Info:From:X-Yahoo-Profile:Sender:MIME-Version:Mailing-List:Delivered-To:Lis
t-Id:Precedence:List-Unsubscribe:Date:Subject:Reply-To:X-Yahoo-Newman-Proper
ty:Content-Type;
>b=okX2QGKIxk8L5F3B7wUexw3ANegrKxO0cnMk6X9o8yT/7VN/JlcgsqoSzl014kg+XGXY3USNo
U0/6kerVpxFlCQRFNbvyq0A6qq1Rq8ZRznVSlahwMo2/lxCZxQS3jqU
>DomainKey-Signature: a=rsa-sha1; q=dns; c=nofws; s=lima; d=yahoogroups.com;
>
>b=HuxyelXL0irnSGB6OZkU1Wo4qMbF0EN/CH7z6loW6J8t8Pes26kEo6h43MZT/naXcr0rcm+/B
j8nV8uYf7MyyI+aPdxbGIFoNKhW119u/zFGRsty8o7zSIgdmOF6tTOJ;
>To: David Kaiser < al7hg@... <mailto:al7hg%40arrl.net> <
mailto:al7hg%40arrl.net <mailto: al7hg@... > > >
>From: Dave < kaiserdr@... <mailto:kaiserdr%40yahoo.com> <
mailto:kaiserdr%40yahoo.com <mailto: kaiserdr@... > > >
>Sender: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com <mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >
>Mailing-List: list ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > > ;
>contact ic756pro3-owner@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3-owner%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3-owner%40yahoogroups.com
<mailto: ic756pro3-owner@yahoogroups.com > >
>Delivered-To: mailing list ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >
>Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2012 11:16:38 -0700 (PDT)
>Subject: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
>PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS
>Reply-To: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com <mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >
>
>
>
>I signed this, hope it helps!
>
>
>Dave Kaiser, AL7HG
>5395 N. Tumblewood Drive
>Crystal River, FL 34428-9426
>(352) 563-6007
>
>----- Forwarded Message -----
>From: Allen Brier N5XZ << mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net
<mailto: n5xz@... > > n5xz@...
<mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net>
< mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net <mailto: n5xz@earthlink.net > > >
>To:

>< mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net <mailto: logic@mailman.qth.net >
> logic@... <mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net>
< mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net <mailto: logic@... > > ;
>< mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com >
> N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com <mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com > >
>Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 1:45 PM
>Subject: [LOGic] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
>PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS
>
>PLEASE CROSS-POST THIS TO AS MANY REFLECTORS,
>SEND TO AS MANY HAMS AND NON-HAMS AND PRINT IN
>AS MANY NEWSLETTERS AS POSSIBLE!!
>
>FROM QRZ.COM:
>
>RADIO LAW: HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA
PROHIBITIONS
>
>N4UM tells Newsline that he has begun a petition
>drive to the FCC. This, in an attempt to get the
>regulatory agency to void antenna prohibitions
>by developers and Home Owners Associations.
>
>As of this report the petition has garnered over
>1000 signatures. N4UM says that he is doing this
>now because the FCC is currently requesting
>formal comments on emergency communications in
>amateur radio. The agency also wants to know the
>effects of impediments to the amateur radio
>service as part of the Docket GN 12-91 inquiry.
>
>Comments on this federal study close on May
>17th. N4UM says that his petition will also
>close on this same day. You can find his
>petition on-line at tinyurl.com/antenna-rights (N4UM)
>
http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-anten
na-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers
< http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-ante
nna-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers>
>I don't know how much good this will do, but I
>can't see how it could hurt any pending efforts.
>At minimum it will bring some more attention to
>the subject by all concerned. In any case, PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION!
>
>Allen N5XZ / KL5DX
>_____
>LOGic mailing list
>Home:

>< http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/logic
< http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/logic > >
http://mailman.qth.net/mailm < http://mailman.qth.net/mailm >
an/listinfo/logic
>Help: < http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm < http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm >
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<mailto: LOGic@... > >
>
>This list hosted by: < http://www.qsl.net > http://www.qsl.net
< http://www.qsl.net/ >
>Please help support this email list:
>< http://www.qsl.net/donate.html < http://www.qsl.net/donate.html > >
http://www.qsl.net/donate.html < http://www.qsl.net/donate.html >
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[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (2) 3b. Re: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING
SIGNATURES ON P
Posted by: "Chuck" wcmoore@... wd4hxg
Mon Apr 23, 2012 3:35 pm (PDT)

Just signed the petition. It seems to be ratcheting up pretty fast.

On 04/23/12, LOU HORTON wrote:

Thanks Van, took less than one minute !!

http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-anten
na-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers

The complete link worked great..

Lou wa5bng

From: van wd8aam [mailto: vlincoln@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 4:03 PM
To: LOU HORTON
Subject: RE: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS

I put the FULL URL into the message
Van wd8aam

At 19:31 4/23/2012, you wrote:

Anybody else having trouble going to the link below?

Lou wa5bng

From: heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto:heathkit%40yahoogroups.com> [
mailto: heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto: heathkit@yahoogroups.com >] On
Behalf
Of van wd8aam
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To: Heathkit@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Heathkit%40yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Heathkit:Yahoo] Fwd: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS

>Authentication-Results:
>mx02.dlls.pa.frontiernet.net; dkim=pass
>(signature verified) header.i=@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:header.i%3D%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:header.i%3D%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: header.i=@yahoogroups.com > >
>DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256;
>c=relaxed/relaxed; d=yahoogroups.com; s=lima;
>t=1335205061;
>bh=62cS0Pww90Og2zuVf9uoQ50M5EiRdskpjomeRNcitqY=;
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-Info:From:X-Yahoo-Profile:Sender:MIME-Version:Mailing-List:Delivered-To:Lis
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U0/6kerVpxFlCQRFNbvyq0A6qq1Rq8ZRznVSlahwMo2/lxCZxQS3jqU
>DomainKey-Signature: a=rsa-sha1; q=dns; c=nofws; s=lima; d=yahoogroups.com;
>
>b=HuxyelXL0irnSGB6OZkU1Wo4qMbF0EN/CH7z6loW6J8t8Pes26kEo6h43MZT/naXcr0rcm+/B
j8nV8uYf7MyyI+aPdxbGIFoNKhW119u/zFGRsty8o7zSIgdmOF6tTOJ;
>To: David Kaiser < al7hg@... <mailto:al7hg%40arrl.net> <
mailto:al7hg%40arrl.net <mailto: al7hg@... > > >
>From: Dave < kaiserdr@... <mailto:kaiserdr%40yahoo.com> <
mailto:kaiserdr%40yahoo.com <mailto: kaiserdr@... > > >
>Sender: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com <mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >
>Mailing-List: list ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > > ;
>contact ic756pro3-owner@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3-owner%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3-owner%40yahoogroups.com
<mailto: ic756pro3-owner@yahoogroups.com > >
>Delivered-To: mailing list ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >

>Date: Mon, 23 Apr 2012 11:16:38 -0700 (PDT)
>Subject: [ic756pro3] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
>PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA PROHIBITIONS
>Reply-To: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com <mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com>
<mailto:ic756pro3%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: ic756pro3@yahoogroups.com > >
>
>
>
>I signed this, hope it helps!
>
>
>Dave Kaiser, AL7HG
>5395 N. Tumblewood Drive
>Crystal River, FL 34428-9426
>(352) 563-6007
>
>----- Forwarded Message -----
>From: Allen Brier N5XZ << mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net
<mailto: n5xz@... > > n5xz@earthlink.net
<mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net>
< mailto:n5xz%40earthlink.net <mailto: n5xz@... > > >
>To:
>< mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net <mailto: logic@... >
> logic@... <mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net>
< mailto:logic%40mailman.qth.net <mailto: logic@... > > ;
>< mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com >
> N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com <mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com>
< mailto:N1MMLogger%40yahoogroups.com <mailto: N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com > >
>Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 1:45 PM
>Subject: [LOGic] HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON
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>
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>
>FROM QRZ.COM:
>
>RADIO LAW: HAM GATHERING SIGNATURES ON PETITION TO VOID ANTENNA
PROHIBITIONS
>
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>
>As of this report the petition has garnered over
>1000 signatures. N4UM says that he is doing this
>now because the FCC is currently requesting
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>amateur radio. The agency also wants to know the
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>service as part of the Docket GN 12-91 inquiry.
>
>Comments on this federal study close on May
>17th. N4UM says that his petition will also
>close on this same day. You can find his
>petition on-line at tinyurl.com/antenna-rights (N4UM)
>
http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-anten
na-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers
< http://www.change.org/petitions/federal-communications-commission-void-ante
nna-restrictions-by-homeowner-s-associations-and-developers>
>I don't know how much good this will do, but I
>can't see how it could hurt any pending efforts.
>At minimum it will bring some more attention to
>the subject by all concerned. In any case, PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION!
>
>Allen N5XZ / KL5DX
>_____
>LOGic mailing list
>Home:
>< http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/logic
< http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/logic > >
http://mailman.qth.net/mailm < http://mailman.qth.net/mailm >
an/listinfo/logic
>Help: < http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm < http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm >
> http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm < http://mailman.qth.net/mmfaq.htm >
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>
>This list hosted by: < http://www.qsl.net > http://www.qsl.net
< http://www.qsl.net/ >
>Please help support this email list:
>< http://www.qsl.net/donate.html < http://www.qsl.net/donate.html > >
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Yahoo! Groups Links

Back to top Reply to sender | Reply to group | Reply via web post
Messages in this topic (2) 4a. Re: SB-230 and ALC
Posted by: "W6CCD" w6ccd@... deweygroups
Mon Apr 23, 2012 5:50 pm (PDT)

Thanks for the response Jim. I had to chuckle at your "Back in the day."
When I first got my license in 1951, no one I knew even had an oscilloscope.
The closest we could come to that for sniffing out RF was light bulbs.

73, Dick - W6CCD

-----Original Message-----
From: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
[mailto: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 6:38 PM
To: HeathKit_HFAmps@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [HeathKit_HFAmps] Re: SB-230 and ALC

Back in the day we'd sniff the amp output with a short length of wire
wrapped around the coax to the antenna, or the coax between the exciter and
the amp, or both with a switch.

Totally modern users would build something like a 50 dB tap to insert
in-line, but a chunk of wire works nearly as well.

73
Jim N6OTQ

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Messages in this topic (6)

1105. Leaving the 87A Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-05-23 18:32:10 UTC
From: oreradioguy
Topic: 1105 Message: 1105

Going to leave this group. Its been fine while here but have decided to move on with my Amplifiers. Purchased first 87A when they first came out in Dayton way back, had to wait quite a while for delivery. Amplifier performed flawlessly for years before I reluctantly sold it and bought another with Alpha Max and everything from Molly in 2009. It also worked perfectly up till now. I have upgraded and returned the 87A to Alpha as a trade in. In my opinion my Elecraft PA 500 added recently and yesterday the Alpha 9500 will offer all the power and reliability I shall need while here on the planet. I will keep both in the arsenal and wish all 87A owners and even new owners all the best. You will never be disappointed to have and use one. Any questions feel free to ask off list.

1106. Re: Leaving the 87A Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-05-24 22:49:13 UTC
From: k2ue@ymail.com
Topic: 1105 Message: 1106

It's nice to know there are still pieces of equipment so excellent in concept and execution that they can serve several cycles of owners and still provide pride of ownership. My 87A was a refurb, and probably the best performance vs. cost item in my shack. Enjoy the 9500, my friends with those love them equally well.
Clyde, K2UE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "oreradioguy" <kd7rj@...> wrote:
>
> Going to leave this group. Its been fine while here but have decided to move on with my Amplifiers. Purchased first 87A when they first came out in Dayton way back, had to wait quite a while for delivery. Amplifier performed flawlessly for years before I reluctantly sold it and bought another with Alpha Max and everything from Molly in 2009. It also worked perfectly up till now. I have upgraded and returned the 87A to Alpha as a trade in. In my opinion my Elecraft PA 500 added recently and yesterday the Alpha 9500 will offer all the power and reliability I shall need while here on the planet. I will keep both in the arsenal and wish all 87A owners and even new owners all the best. You will never be disappointed to have and use one. Any questions feel free to ask off list.
>

1107. Leaving Group

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-05-28 13:04:14 UTC
From: Ed Pflueger
Topic: 1107 Message: 1107

Molly Twisted my arm at Dayton and made me buy a 9500 Amp and 4520 Wattmeter. I sold my 87A to KY2O and I hope he has just as good of luck with it as I did.

Ed.....AB4IQ

1108. Machlett Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-06-12 17:17:21 UTC
From: ray.higgins10
Topic: 1108 Message: 1108

Can anyone let me know how well Machlett 3CX800A7 tubes work in the
Alpha 87A ?
Tnx

1109. Re: [Alpha87a] Machlett Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-06-12 17:25:40 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1108 Message: 1109

On 6/12/2012 1:17 PM, ray.higgins10 wrote:
>
> Can anyone let me know how well Machlett 3CX800A7 tubes work in the
> Alpha 87A ?
> Tnx
>
>
I would like to know as well . thanks John Molenda kb2huk

1110. Fan shipping screw size?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-07 19:27:50 UTC
From: k2ue@ymail.com
Topic: 1110 Message: 1110

My refurb 87A is good in every way, but it arrived without the fan shipping screws. What size screws/washers/etc shoulbe be used if I need to ship it for trade-in or service?

Clyde, K2UE

1111. 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 16:21:51 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1111

This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump. Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any ideas? Rick VE9HF

1112. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 17:26:17 UTC
From: Paul Young G0HWC
Topic: 1111 Message: 1112

Hi there Rick,

if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.

The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
and report back with this info

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://www.truckcam.tv

From: ve9hf
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On

This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump. Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any ideas? Rick VE9HF

1113. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 18:07:11 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1113

Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.

Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi there Rick,
>
> if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
>
> The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
> and report back with this info
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
> http://www.truckcam.tv
>
>
> From: ve9hf
> Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
>
>
> This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump. Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any ideas? Rick VE9HF
>

1114. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 19:38:21 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1111 Message: 1114

The 36 volt start up fuse is often overlooked when a 87A is dead. This small 36V fuse is located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.

This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.

Jim
K5WLQ

From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.

Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@...> wrote:
>
> Hi there Rick,
>
> if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
>
> The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
> and report back with this info
>
> Paul G0HWC
> http://www.g0hwc.com
> http://www.truckcam.tv
>
>
> From: ve9hf
> Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
>
>
> This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
>fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump.

>Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any
>ideas? Rick VE9HF
>

1115. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 22:42:11 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1115

I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:

FACTORY MODE = OFF

SYNTAX ERROR
SFAULT LOG = 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
HFAULT LOG = 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99

The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but don't want to get ahead of myself.

Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>
>
>
>
>
> TheÂ Â Â 36 volt start up fuseÂ is often overlooked when a 87AÂ is dead.Â Â This small
> 36V Â fuse isÂ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked
> 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is
> under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
>
> This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This
> can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage
> board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS
> board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
>
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
> Â
>
>
>
> _____
> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
> Â
> Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
>

> Rick VE9HF
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
> >
> > Hi there Rick,
> >
> > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> > the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
> >
> > The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
> > and report back with this info
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> > http://www.truckcam.tv
> >
> >
> > From: ve9hf
> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
> >
> >
> > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
> >fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump.
> >Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any
> >ideas? Rick VE9HF
> >
>

1116. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-21 23:03:49 UTC
From: Joe - WDØM
Topic: 1111 Message: 1116

This is from the Alpha site:

http://asktheham.com/node/56

Fault 99 is a result of 6 continuous faults, which shuts down the amp.

Hope this helps in some small way.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 7/21/2012 4:42 PM, ve9hf wrote:
>
> I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
>
> FACTORY MODE = OFF
>
> SYNTAX ERROR
> SFAULT LOG = 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
> HFAULT LOG = 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99
>
> The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
> I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from
> HB9ZS, but don't want to get ahead of myself.
>
> Rick VE9HF
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > The? ? ? 36 volt start up fuse? is often overlooked when a 87A? is
> dead.? ? This small
> > 36V ? fuse is? located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The
> fuse is marked
> > 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit.
> The LVPS is
> > under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
> >
> > This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually
> white). This

> > can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the
> High Voltage
> > board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge
> of the LVPS
> > board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than
> 10 ohms.
> >
> >
> > Jim
> > K5WLQ
> > ?
> >
> >
> >
> > _____
> > From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
> > ?
> > Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
> >
> > Rick VE9HF
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hi there Rick,
> > >
> > > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> > > the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
> > >
> > > The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the
> fault codes
> > > and report back with this info
> > >
> > > Paul G0HWC
> > > http://www.g0hwc.com
> > > http://www.truckcam.tv
> > >
> > >
> > > From: ve9hf
> > > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
> > >
> > >
> > > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The
> fuses are

> > >fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed
> to a thump.
> > >Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1
> second. Any
> > >ideas? Rick VE9HF
> > >
> >
>
>

1117. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 00:39:15 UTC
From: Frank LaFranco
Topic: 1111 Message: 1117

According to the 87A Manual:
Page 37 (Fault codes)
Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage. May be caused by excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)

Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs. This fault protects the amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls. Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user without factory authorization.

Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of action is to take.

Good luck Rick,
Frank - W6NEK
----- Original Message -----
From: ve9hf
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:

FACTORY MODE = OFF

SYNTAX ERROR
SFAULT LOG = 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
HFAULT LOG = 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99

The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but don't want to get ahead of myself.

Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>
>
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>
>
> TheÂ Â Â 36 volt start up fuseÂ is often overlooked when a 87AÂ is dead.Â Â This small
> 36V Â fuse isÂ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked
> 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is
> under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.

>
> This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This
> can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage
> board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS
> board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
>
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
> Â
>
>
>
> _____
> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
> Â
> Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
>
> Rick VE9HF
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
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> > Hi there Rick,
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> > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> > the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
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> > The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
> > and report back with this info
> >
> > Paul G0HWC
> > http://www.g0hwc.com
> > http://www.truckcam.tv
> >
> >
> > From: ve9hf
> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
> >
> >
> > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
> >fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump.
> >Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any
> >ideas? Rick VE9HF
> >

>

Yahoo! Groups Links

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12

1118. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 01:00:16 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1118

It appears I may have a blown step start fuse. Can anyone provide me with the size, voltage etc. of this particular fuse? With the amp unplugged I stuck my probes through the holes on the top rear and it is blown.

Rick VE9HF

"If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a blown
step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), or can indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown."

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Frank LaFranco" <flafranco@...> wrote:
>
> According to the 87A Manual:
> Page 37 (Fault codes)
> Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage. May be caused by excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)
>
> Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs. This fault protects the amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls. Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user without factory authorization.
>
> Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of action is to take.
>
> Good luck Rick,
> Frank - W6NEK
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: ve9hf
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
>
> I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
>
> FACTORY MODE = OFF
>
> SYNTAX ERROR
> SFAULT LOG = 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
> HFAULT LOG = 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99
>
> The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
> I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but don't want

to get ahead of myself.
>
> Rick VE9HF
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@> wrote:
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > TheÂ Â Â 36 volt start up fuseÂ is often overlooked when a 87AÂ is dead.Â Â This small
> > 36V Â fuse isÂ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked
> > 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is
> > under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
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> > This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This
> > can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage
> > board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS
> > board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
> >
> >
> > Jim
> > K5WLQ
> > Â
> >
> >
> >
> > _____
> > From: ve9hf <ve9hf@>
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
> > Â
> > Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
> >
> > Rick VE9HF
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
> > >
> > > Hi there Rick,
> > >
> > > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> > > the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
> > >
> > > The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
> > > and report back with this info
> > >
> > > Paul G0HWC
> > > http://www.g0hwc.com

> > > http://www.truckcam.tv
> > >
> > >
> > > From: ve9hf
> > > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
> > >
> > >
> > > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
> > >fine. When I press the power on swicth I hear a click, as opposed to a thump.
> > >Nothing lights up on the 87A, but the DAS lights up for maybe 1 second. Any
> > >ideas? Rick VE9HF
> > >
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> ---
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>
> -----
> No virus found in this message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
>

1119. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 02:07:55 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1111 Message: 1119

You no longer have to call Alpha to clear Fault 99. The source codes to clear Fault 99 is on R F Concepts web site. Click on downloasds , scroll down to the 87A. The directions are listed. Alpha requerst us to not publish the clear 99 code on the internet.

K5WLQ

From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

According to the 87A Manual:
Page 37 (Fault codes)
Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage. May be caused by excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)

Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs. This fault protects the amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls. Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user without factory authorization.

Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of action is to take.

Good luck Rick,
Frank - W6NEK
----- Original Message -----
>From: ve9hf
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
>I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
>
>FACTORY MODE = OFF
>
>SYNTAX ERROR
>SFAULT LOG = 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14
>HFAULT LOG = 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99
>
>The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?

>I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but
>don't want to get ahead of myself.
>
>Rick VE9HF
>
>
>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> TheÂ Â Â 36 volt start up fuseÂ is often overlooked when a 87AÂ is dead.Â Â
>>This small
>>
>> 36V Â fuse isÂ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is
>>marked
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>> 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS
>>is
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>> under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
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>> This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This

>> can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage

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>> board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
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>>
>> Jim
>> K5WLQ
>> Â
>>
>>
>>
>> _____
>> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
>> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
>> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>>
>> Â
>> Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
>>
>> Rick VE9HF
>>
>> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
>> >

>> > Hi there Rick,
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>> > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
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>> >
>> >
>> > From: ve9hf
>> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
>> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
>> >
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>> > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
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>Yahoo! Groups Links
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>No virus found in this message.
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>Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
>
>

1120. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 12:43:45 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1120

I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
>
> You no longerÂ have Â to call Alpha to clear Fault 99.Â Â The source codes to clear
> Fault 99 is on R F Concepts web site.Â Click onÂ downloasdsÂ , scroll down to the
> 87A.Â The directions are listed. Alpha requerstÂ us to notÂ publish the clear 99
> code on the internet.
>
> K5WLQ
>
>
>
>
> _____
> From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
> Â
> According to the 87A Manual:
> Page 37 (Fault codes)
> Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage.Â May be caused by
> excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or
> excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)
>
> Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6
> consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support
> at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs.Â This fault protects the
> amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Â
> Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user
> without factory authorization.
>
> Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call
> RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of actionÂ is to take.
>
> Good luck Rick,
> Frank - W6NEK
> ----- Original Message -----
> >From: ve9hf

> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> >Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
> >I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
> >
> >FACTORY MODE = OFF
> >
> >SYNTAX ERROR
> >SFAULT LOG = 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â
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> >I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but
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> >Rick VE9HF
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> >--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@> wrote:
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> >>This small
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> >> 36V Ã□ fuse isÃ□ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is
> >>marked
> >>
> >> 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS
> >>is
> >>
> >> under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
> >>
> >> This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This
>
> >> can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage
>
> >> board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS
> >
> >> board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
> >>
> >>
> >> Jim
> >> K5WLQ
> >> Ã□
> >>

> >>
> >>
> >> _____
> >> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@>
> >> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> >> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >>
> >> Ã□
> >> Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
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> >> Rick VE9HF
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> >> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
> >> >
> >> > Hi there Rick,
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> >> > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
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> >> > Paul G0HWC
> >> > http://www.g0hwc.com
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> >> >
> >> > From: ve9hf
> >> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> >> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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> >> > This morning I walk into the shack and the 87A won't power on. The fuses are
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> >
> >Yahoo! Groups Links

> >
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> >
> >
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> >-----
> >No virus found in this message.
> >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
> >
> >
>

1121. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 14:52:10 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1111 Message: 1121

The soft start fuse dosen't look like a fuse at first glance so it can eaisly be overlooked. Its called a 36 volt fuse because it in on the 36 volt low voltage board . If all else fails you can order tyhe little fuse from RF Concepts... YIKES! .
Fuse, Micro, 2 Amp 125V
Micro Fuse, 2Amp 125V
Used on the 87A and 89 T/R board and87A LVPS
$14.50

_____
From: ve9hf <ve9hf@rac.ca>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
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> code on the internet.
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> K5WLQ
>
>
>
>
> _____
> From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
> Â

> According to the 87A Manual:
> Page 37 (Fault codes)
> Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage.Â May be caused
>by
>
> excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or
> excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)
>
> Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6

> consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support

> at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs.Â This fault protects the
> amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Â

> Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user

> without factory authorization.
>
> Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call

> RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of actionÂ is to take.
>
> Good luck Rick,
> Frank - W6NEK
> ----- Original Message -----
> >From: ve9hf
> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> >Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> >
> >FACTORY MODE = OFF
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> >SFAULT LOG = 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â
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> >The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
> >I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but

> >don't want to get ahead of myself.
> >
> >Rick VE9HF
> >
> >
> >--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@> wrote:
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> >> TheÃ, Ã, Ã, 36 volt start up fuseÃ, is often overlooked when a 87AÃ, is
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> >> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
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> >> > Paul G0HWC
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> >> >
> >> > From: ve9hf
> >> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> >> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
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> >No virus found in this message.
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> >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
> >
> >
>

1122. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 14:59:22 UTC
From: James C. Hall, MD
Topic: 1111 Message: 1122

Hi Jim:

I believe the start-stop fuse is the large white cylinder at the top, near the partition. That little glass cylinder fuse is on the LVPS board and is a real PITA to replace !

73, Jamie

WB4YDL

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim Heye
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

The soft start fuse dosen't look like a fuse at first glance so it can eaisly be overlooked. Its called a 36 volt fuse because it in on the 36 volt low voltage board . If all else fails you can order tyhe little fuse from RF Concepts...

YIKES! .

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts/Fuse-Little-2Amp-125V> Fuse, Micro, 2 Amp 125V

Micro Fuse, 2Amp 125V
Used on the 87A and 89 T/R board and 87A LVPS

$14.50

From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , Jim Heye <james_heye@...> wrote:
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> You no longerÂ have Â to call Alpha to clear Fault 99.Â Â The source codes to clear
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> 87A.Â The directions are listed. Alpha requerstÂ us to notÂ publish the clear 99
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> From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
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> excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)
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> Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6
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> amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Â
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> without factory authorization.
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> Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call
> RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of actionÂ is to take.
>
> Good luck Rick,
> Frank - W6NEK
> ----- Original Message -----
> >From: ve9hf
> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> >Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> >Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
> >I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
> >
> >FACTORY MODE = OFF
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> >SYNTAX ERROR
> >SFAULT LOG = 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â 14Â
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> >The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
> >I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but
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> >--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , Jim Heye
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> >> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
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> >> > From: ve9hf
> >> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
> >> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> >> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
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> >Yahoo! Groups Links
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> >No virus found in this message.
> >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
> >
> >
>

--
This message has been scanned for viruses and
dangerous content by <http://www.mailscanner.info/> MailScanner, and is
believed to be clean.

1123. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 15:48:43 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 1111 Message: 1123

Or you could order it from Mouser for about 1/3 of that:

576-0273002.H

And for the 30MM X 6MM fuse I doubt that an auto supply store would have the correct voltage rating.

Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----
From: Jim Heye
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 7:52 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

The soft start fuse dosen't look like a fuse at first glance so it can eaisly be overlooked. Its called a 36 volt fuse because it in on the 36 volt low voltage board . If all else fails you can order tyhe little fuse from RF Concepts...
YIKES! .
Fuse, Micro, 2 Amp 125V
Micro Fuse, 2Amp 125V
Used on the 87A and 89 T/R board and 87A LVPS
$14.50

From: ve9hf <ve9hf@rac.ca>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF

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> code on the internet.
>
> K5WLQ
>
>
>
>

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> From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> According to the 87A Manual:
> Page 37 (Fault codes)
> Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage.Â May be caused by
> excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or
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> Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6
> consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support
> at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs.Â This fault protects the
> amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Â
> Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user
> without factory authorization.
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> Good luck Rick,
> Frank - W6NEK
> ----- Original Message -----
> >From: ve9hf
> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> >Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> >Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
> >
> >
>

1124. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 19:09:09 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1124

Here's the latest. I replaced the step start fuse, then I plugged the amp in, it blew two more fuses in a row. It's now running for the moment. Full output. I ahte to swicth it off if you know what I mean. You'd never know there had been an issue. I feel my best bet is to do a microprocessor reset by turning it off and then unplugging it for a couple of minutes. WHen it did come on it did fault and segments 1, 3 and 4 were lit. It then cleared and as I say appears to be running normally. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@...> wrote:
>
> Or you could order it from Mouser for about 1/3 of that:
>
> 576-0273002.H
>
> And for the 30MM X 6MM fuse I doubt that an auto supply store would have the correct voltage rating.
>
>
> Bob W6VY
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jim Heye
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 7:52 AM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> YIKES! .
> Fuse, Micro, 2 Amp 125V
> Micro Fuse, 2Amp 125V
> Used on the 87A and 89 T/R board and 87A LVPS
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> ---
> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
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> > Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> > Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
> > Ã☐
> > According to the 87A Manual:
> > Page 37 (Fault codes)
> > Soft Fault 14 = Excessive load reflected power or RF voltage.Ã☐ May be caused by
> > excessive load VSWR at an otherwise acceptable power (e.g. at 1.5 kW) or
> > excessive power at otherwise acceptable load VSWR (e.g. 2.5kW at 1.9:1)
> >
> > Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6
> > consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support
> > at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs.Ã☐ This fault protects the
> > amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Ã☐
> > Warranty will not apply to resulting damage if this fault is reset by the user
> > without factory authorization.
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> > Of course no Alpha is covered under warranty any more but perhaps you can call
> > RF concepts and talk to a tech on what the best course of actionÃ☐ is to take.
> >
> > Good luck Rick,
> > Frank - W6NEK
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > >From: ve9hf
> > >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > >Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 3:42 PM
> > >Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> > >

> > >I've hooked up Alpha Remote and here's what it says:
> > >
> > >FACTORY MODE = OFF
> > >
> > >SYNTAX ERROR
> > >SFAULT LOG = 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□ 14Ã□
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> > >The dreaded fault 99. What does it all mean?
> > >I'm tempted to download the hard and soft fault reset program from HB9ZS, but
> > >don't want to get ahead of myself.
> > >
> > >Rick VE9HF
> > >
> > >
> > >--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Jim Heye <james_heye@> wrote:
> > >>
> > >>
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> > >> TheÃ□â□□ Ã□â□□ Ã□â□□ 36 volt start up fuseÃ□â□□ is often overlooked when a 87AÃ□â□□ is dead.Ã□â□□ Ã□â□□
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> > >> 36V Ã□â□□ fuse isÃ□â□□ located on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is
> > >>marked
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> > >> 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS
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> > >> under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
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> > >> This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This
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> > >> can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage
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> > >> board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS
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> > >> board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.
> > >>
> > >>
> > >> Jim
> > >> K5WLQ
> > >> Ã□â□□
> > >>
> > >>
> > >>
> > >> _____

> > >> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@>
> > >> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > >> Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 1:07:16 PM
> > >> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> > >>
> > >> Ã□â□□
> > >> Thanks. I'll hook it to the computer.
> > >>
> > >> Rick VE9HF
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> > >> --- In Alpha87a@...m, "Paul Young G0HWC" <paul@> wrote:
> > >> >
> > >> > Hi there Rick,
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> > >> > if you have had the same fault on your amp a few times in a row
> > >> > the amp will go into a sort of safe mode.
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> > >> > The best thing you can do is connect the PC to it and read the fault codes
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> > >> > Paul G0HWC
> > >> > http://www.g0hwc.com
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> > >> >
> > >> > From: ve9hf
> > >> > Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 5:21 PM
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> > >> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A Won't Power On
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> > >>----------
> > >
> > >>Yahoo! Groups Links
> > >
> > >
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> > >
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> > >-----
> > >No virus found in this message.
> > >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> > >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
> > >
> > >
> >
>

1125. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 19:32:29 UTC
From: James C. Hall, MD
Topic: 1111 Message: 1125

Wonder what your line voltage is up there ! J

73, Jamie

WB4YDL

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ve9hf
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Here's the latest. I replaced the step start fuse, then I plugged the amp in, it blew two more fuses in a row. It's now running for the moment. Full output. I ahte to swicth it off if you know what I mean. You'd never know there had been an issue. I feel my best bet is to do a microprocessor reset by turning it off and then unplugging it for a couple of minutes. WHen it did come on it did fault and segments 1, 3 and 4 were lit. It then cleared and as I say appears to be running normally. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@...> wrote:
>
> Or you could order it from Mouser for about 1/3 of that:
>
> 576-0273002.H
>
> And for the 30MM X 6MM fuse I doubt that an auto supply store would have the correct voltage rating.
>
>
> Bob W6VY
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jim Heye
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 7:52 AM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
>
>
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> YIKES! .
> Fuse, Micro, 2 Amp 125V

> Micro Fuse, 2Amp 125V
> Used on the 87A and 89 T/R board and 87A LVPS
> $14.50
>
>
>
>
> ----------
> From: ve9hf <ve9hf@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
>
>
> I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF
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> > 87A.Ã, The directions are listed. Alpha requerstÃ, us to notÃ, publish the clear 99
> > code on the internet.
> >
> > K5WLQ
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > _____
> > From: Frank LaFranco <flafranco@>
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> > Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> > >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
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>

--
This message has been scanned for viruses and
dangerous content by <http://www.mailscanner.info/> MailScanner, and is
believed to be clean.

1126. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-22 19:38:13 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1126

Appears to be just about bang on 240VAC coming out of the wall.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James C. Hall, MD" <heartdoc@...> wrote:
>
> Wonder what your line voltage is up there ! J
>
>
>
> 73, Jamie
>
> WB4YDL
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ve9hf
> Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 2:09 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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> > Or you could order it from Mouser for about 1/3 of that:
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> > Bob W6VY
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> > > >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
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> > > >
> > > >
> > >
> >
>
>
>
>
> --
> This message has been scanned for viruses and
> dangerous content by <http://www.mailscanner.info/> MailScanner, and is
> believed to be clean.
>

1127. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-23 17:02:04 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1111 Message: 1127

I assuming that you are starting the amp with the cover on or you have properly defeated *both* interlocks -- the leaf spring in the center of the amp and the lever-operated switch near the step-start. Not defeating one or both interlocks can blow the step-start fuse.

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This happened to my 87A. One of the original tubes was throwing cathode-related faults so I replaced it. After that, I got very intermittent and random faults with a lot of different codes that didn't make sense. I even went so far as to tear town the HVPS and LVPS boards to look for problems. Eventually, the gassy tube started blowing the main fuses, and several times it blew the step start fuse.

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The issue with a problem like this is that the arc causes the voltages on the power supply boards to go nuts, which leads to misleading fault codes. The 87A fault processing isn't interrupt-driven, so it doesn't get faults in the order they occur. It sits in a loop checking the sensors one at a time. So if you get multiple faults at the same time, you get the one that's checked earliest in the loop. This is why you usually get fault 17 (abnormal gain) in response to problems like high SWR, bad switch contacts, excessive drive and so forth.

I'm not certain that your problem is related to the tubes, but it's relatively easy to check that. Remove both tubes, put the cover back on, and start the amp. If it faults, then the problem is not related to the tubes. If goes into warmup normally, turn it off. Then try putting the tubes back one at a time to isolate the one that's causing the problem. Again, be sure to turn on the amp only with the cover in place so the interlocks will be defeated.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "James C. Hall, MD" <heartdoc@...> wrote:
>
> Wonder what your line voltage is up there ! J
>
>
>
> 73, Jamie
>

> WB4YDL
>
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>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ve9hf
> Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 2:09 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> Here's the latest. I replaced the step start fuse, then I plugged the amp in, it blew two more fuses in a row. It's now running for the moment. Full output. I ahte to swicth it off if you know what I mean. You'd never know there had been an issue. I feel my best bet is to do a microprocessor reset by turning it off and then unplugging it for a couple of minutes. WHen it did come on it did fault and segments 1, 3 and 4 were lit. It then cleared and as I say appears to be running normally. Rick VE9HF
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Robert Dorchuck" <w6vy@> wrote:
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> > Or you could order it from Mouser for about 1/3 of that:
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> > 576-0273002.H
> >
> > And for the 30MM X 6MM fuse I doubt that an auto supply store would have the correct voltage rating.
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> >
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> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: Jim Heye
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2012 7:52 AM
> > Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
> >
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> >

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> > From: ve9hf <ve9hf@>
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Sent: Sun, July 22, 2012 7:43:53 AM
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> > I have it cleared. I'm going to go out as soon as the stores open here and try to get fuses. We're down to one Radio Shack here, but an automotive store will likely have them if the shack doesn't. They're 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Thanks again for everone's assistance. Hopefully it'll end at fuse replacement. Rick VE9HF
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> > > K5WLQ
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> > > _____
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> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Sent: Sat, July 21, 2012 7:39:31 PM
> > > Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On
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> > > Hard Fault 99 = Unit refuses to turn on - Results when the same fault occurs 6
> > > consecutive times without one successful power-up. Call Alpha Customer Support
> > > at Alpha Radio Products for advice if this occurs.Ã□â□□ This fault protects the
> > > amplifier against repetitive abuse and cannot be cleared with user controls.Ã□â□□
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> > > without factory authorization.
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> > > >Yahoo! Groups Links
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> > > >-----
> > > >No virus found in this message.
> > > >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> > > >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
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> --
> This message has been scanned for viruses and
> dangerous content by <http://www.mailscanner.info/> MailScanner, and is
> believed to be clean.
>

1128. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-24 14:58:36 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1128

Thanks Dick. The problem is solved for the moment and the amp is working fine again. I reseated the tubes etc. One tube did appear as if it might not have been quite in place. Can you tell me what the step start fuse should be? I'm wondering if it's a slow blow fuse or just a plain glass job? It's 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "dickgreen03755" <wc1m73@...> wrote:
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> > > > >Yahoo! Groups Links
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> > > > >-----
> > > > >No virus found in this message.
> > > > >Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> > > > >Version: 2012.0.2197 / Virus Database: 2437/5145 - Release Date: 07/21/12
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> > --
> > This message has been scanned for viruses and
> > dangerous content by <http://www.mailscanner.info/> MailScanner, and is
> > believed to be clean.
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>

1129. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-24 15:25:38 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1111 Message: 1129

Hello Rick,

The 87A step-start fuse (at the top of the AC Module) should be a 1.25A slow blow fuse, here is a link to it on the RFConcepts (Alpha) web site:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/Blowers-and-Fans_2/Fuse-1-25A-SB-fuse

73 - Glenn AE0Q

On Tue, Jul 24, 2012 at 8:58 AM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:

> **
>
> Thanks Dick. The problem is solved for the moment and the amp is working
> fine again. I reseated the tubes etc. One tube did appear as if it might
> not have been quite in place. Can you tell me what the step start fuse
> should be? I'm wondering if it's a slow blow fuse or just a plain glass
> job? It's 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Rick VE9HF
>

1130. Re: 87A Won't Power On

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-24 19:30:51 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1111 Message: 1130

Thanks Glenn. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Rick,
>
> The 87A step-start fuse (at the top of the AC Module) should be a 1.25A
> slow blow fuse, here is a link to it on the RFConcepts (Alpha) web site:
>
> http://www.rfconcepts.com/Blowers-and-Fans_2/Fuse-1-25A-SB-fuse
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Tue, Jul 24, 2012 at 8:58 AM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:
>
> > **
> >
> > Thanks Dick. The problem is solved for the moment and the amp is working
> > fine again. I reseated the tubes etc. One tube did appear as if it might
> > not have been quite in place. Can you tell me what the step start fuse
> > should be? I'm wondering if it's a slow blow fuse or just a plain glass
> > job? It's 1.25A 250V 30MM X 6MM. Rick VE9HF
> >
>

1131. Repeated soft Fault 6

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-28 17:50:34 UTC
From: g3sem
Topic: 1131 Message: 1131

I have repeated soft fault 6. I have cut mains and then tried to swich on each time it drops out after about 1 min of warm up time. I have been unable to get the amp to stay on.

Any thoughts anyone?.... is it a dreaded flaky tube.

73 Paul G3SEM

1132. (no subject)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-29 17:29:38 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1132 Message: 1132

http://blackfridaygarminforerun.info/wp-admin/xusdlv.html?vpmv=stmbvray

1133. (no subject)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-07-30 13:54:34 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1133 Message: 1133

http://friendshiptacoma.jetblackdesign.com/.svn/todglwe.html?zmk=xnhkea

1134. 20 Ohms across antenna connectors....Normal?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-14 16:25:47 UTC
From: Dennis
Topic: 1134 Message: 1134

While tracking down a problem with one of my antennas, I was doing some continuity testing with my hand held multimeter, when I found that the 87A showed about 21 ohms across the SO-239 at both the input and output, with the amplifier off and with no coax attached to either input or output. Is this normal? Everything seems to be working normally, as best as I can tell.

I tried to follow everything on the mulitpage schematics but I confess that I get lost. Could this indicate a leaky capacitor?

Thanks in advance.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

1135. 3CX800A7 Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-15 00:04:00 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1135 Message: 1135

I bought a set of medical pulls cheap and plugged them into my 87A this evening. They put out as much as my Varians, however, to get 1500 you need to run them at 70 or 80ma. This is obviously high. Is this an indication that the tubes are are closing in on the end of the line. I repeat...they were cheap. Rikc VE9HF

1136. RE: [Alpha87a] 3CX800A7 Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-15 00:47:49 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 1135 Message: 1136

In my experience once you have to drive them hard, it's not long till you have to drive them even harder. They are so expensive new, though, that these days I don't mind settling for reduced power output using lower gird current. I still have the original tubes in an Alpha 86 and very old but not original tube in an Alpha 89. The original tubes failed with rapidly escalating grid current during the days of the demise of the "real" Eimac. They were replaced three times under warranty until the mystery of the sagging grid problem was resolved by the new company.

My advice is to back off on the grid current and see if you can live with the lower output power.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ve9hf
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 8:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 3CX800A7 Question

I bought a set of medical pulls cheap and plugged them into my 87A this evening. They put out as much as my Varians, however, to get 1500 you need to run them at 70 or 80ma. This is obviously high. Is this an indication that the tubes are are closing in on the end of the line. I repeat...they were cheap. Rikc VE9HF

1137. Re: 3CX800A7 Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-15 10:12:02 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1135 Message: 1137

Thanks for the info. I may just reinstall the Varians and keep these as backup. The Varians are fine. Rick VE9HF

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Carroll" <w2wg@...> wrote:
>
> In my experience once you have to drive them hard, it's not long till you
> have to drive them even harder. They are so expensive new, though, that
> these days I don't mind settling for reduced power output using lower gird
> current. I still have the original tubes in an Alpha 86 and very old but
> not original tube in an Alpha 89. The original tubes failed with rapidly
> escalating grid current during the days of the demise of the "real" Eimac.
> They were replaced three times under warranty until the mystery of the
> sagging grid problem was resolved by the new company.
>
>
>
> My advice is to back off on the grid current and see if you can live with
> the lower output power.
>
>
>
> 73
>
> Bob W2WG
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of ve9hf
> Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 8:04 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 3CX800A7 Question
>
>
>
>
>
> I bought a set of medical pulls cheap and plugged them into my 87A this
> evening. They put out as much as my Varians, however, to get 1500 you need
> to run them at 70 or 80ma. This is obviously high. Is this an indication
> that the tubes are are closing in on the end of the line. I repeat...they
> were cheap. Rikc VE9HF
>

1138. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 3CX800A7 Question

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-15 17:21:08 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1135 Message: 1138

HI Rick,

it happed the same witch 3CPX1500 tubes in our clubs`s Alpha 77. The CPX tubes needs higher plate voltage then classical CX tubes. Maybe you can rise slightly the plate voltage with moving the primary tap.

73s Tadej S52X

2012/8/15 ve9hf <ve9hf@...>

> **
>
>
> Thanks for the info. I may just reinstall the Varians and keep these as
> backup. The Varians are fine. Rick VE9HF
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Carroll" <w2wg@...> wrote:
> >
> > In my experience once you have to drive them hard, it's not long till you
> > have to drive them even harder. They are so expensive new, though, that
> > these days I don't mind settling for reduced power output using lower
> gird
> > current. I still have the original tubes in an Alpha 86 and very old but
> > not original tube in an Alpha 89. The original tubes failed with rapidly
> > escalating grid current during the days of the demise of the "real"
> Eimac.
> > They were replaced three times under warranty until the mystery of the
> > sagging grid problem was resolved by the new company.
> >
> >
> >
> > My advice is to back off on the grid current and see if you can live with
> > the lower output power.
> >
> >
> >
> > 73
> >
> > Bob W2WG
> >
> >
> >
> > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
> Behalf
> > Of ve9hf

> > Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 8:04 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] 3CX800A7 Question
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > I bought a set of medical pulls cheap and plugged them into my 87A this
> > evening. They put out as much as my Varians, however, to get 1500 you
> need
> > to run them at 70 or 80ma. This is obviously high. Is this an indication
> > that the tubes are are closing in on the end of the line. I repeat...they
> > were cheap. Rikc VE9HF
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1139. Re: [Alpha87a] 20 Ohms across antenna connectors....Normal?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-16 10:54:54 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1134 Message: 1139

Hi Dennis,

I have not check mine, but I suppose the are some dc chocks in the rf line to help pin diodes survive...

73s Tadej s52x

Sent from my iPad

On 14. avg. 2012, at 18:25, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:

> While tracking down a problem with one of my antennas, I was doing some continuity testing with my hand held multimeter, when I found that the 87A showed about 21 ohms across the SO-239 at both the input and output, with the amplifier off and with no coax attached to either input or output. Is this normal? Everything seems to be working normally, as best as I can tell.
>
> I tried to follow everything on the mulitpage schematics but I confess that I get lost. Could this indicate a leaky capacitor?
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>
>

1140. Re: [Alpha87a] 20 Ohms across antenna connectors....Normal?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-16 12:10:01 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1134 Message: 1140

Hello Dennis,

Yes, 15 to 20 ohms across the RF OUT connector of the 87A is normal.
There is an RF choke across the output for static discharge protection.

Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On 14. avg. 2012, at 18:25, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:
>
> While tracking down a problem with one of my antennas, I was doing some
> continuity testing with my hand held multimeter, when I found that the 87A
> showed about 21 ohms across the SO-239 at both the input and output, with
> the amplifier off and with no coax attached to either input or output. Is
> this normal? Everything seems to be working normally, as best as I can tell.
>
>
> I tried to follow everything on the mulitpage schematics but I confess
> that I get lost. Could this indicate a leaky capacitor?
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
> Best Regards,
> Dennis, N8ERF
>
>

1141. Re: [Alpha87a] 20 Ohms across antenna connectors....Normal?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-16 19:19:06 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1134 Message: 1141

Glenn,

Thanks for taking the time to put my mind at ease!

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF

On Thu, Aug 16, 2012 at 8:10 AM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello Dennis,
>
> Yes, 15 to 20 ohms across the RF OUT connector of the 87A is normal.
> There is an RF choke across the output for static discharge protection.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
> RF Concepts
>
>
>
> On 14. avg. 2012, at 18:25, "Dennis" <klipadk@...> wrote:
>>
>> While tracking down a problem with one of my antennas, I was doing
>> some continuity testing with my hand held multimeter, when I found that the
>> 87A showed about 21 ohms across the SO-239 at both the input and output,
>> with the amplifier off and with no coax attached to either input or output.
>> Is this normal? Everything seems to be working normally, as best as I can
>> tell.
>>
>>
>> I tried to follow everything on the mulitpage schematics but I confess
>> that I get lost. Could this indicate a leaky capacitor?
>>
>> Thanks in advance.
>>
>> Best Regards,
>> Dennis, N8ERF
>>
>>
>

1142. Re: [Alpha87a] Machlett Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-21 19:21:12 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 1108 Message: 1142

Ray,
Did you ever get a reply to this off list. I have not seen anything
posted on the list and I am wondering about them too.
Thanks
Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----
From: "ray.higgins10" <ray.higgins10@...>
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2012 10:17 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Machlett Tubes

> Can anyone let me know how well Machlett 3CX800A7 tubes work in the
> Alpha 87A ?
> Tnx
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

1143. Alpha 87A sub harmonics?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-25 08:10:15 UTC
From: bob_5b4agn
Topic: 1143 Message: 1143

My Alpha 87A is misbehaving. I knew I was tempting fate when only recently I commented on how reliable an amp it has been since I bought it back in '94.

The problem is a curious one. I wonder whether anyone might have seen something similar.

I run an SO2R set up with a pair of Elecraft K3s an Alpha 87A and an Acom 1000. Band pass filters are in use between each K3 and its associated amplifier. Amp outputs are stubbed as required. While 2nd and 3rd harmonics are audible, indeed quite strong there is no other interference between radios. Except that is ..... use of the K3 and 87A on 10m can produce an S9+20 signal at exactly half the operating frequency. This wouldn't be so bad but the signal is so clicky it covers at least 50kHz of 20m.

This signal is not always there. Indeed with output driven up to around 600W there is no discernible signal at 1/2 operating frequency. However a very small increase in output power and the 1/2 frequency signal appears at S9+20. This is a clear avalanche effect in that a +/- 10W change in output level is enough for the 1/2 frequency signal to be there/not there.

I suspect something may be arcing once the fated power level is reached. Of course this could be within the 87A, though I can see no evidence of an arc, or it could be something on the 87A output but external to it. To determine which I first attached a different antenna with different feeder to the 87A. The problem was still evident though avalanche occurred at a slightly different power level, likely due to the 87A seeing a slightly different impedance. The evidence clearly points to the source of the problem being within the 87A. To further confirm, I disconnected antennas from the 87A altogether, instead attaching a 50R dummy load. The 1/2 frequency signal is still produced albeit the avalanche takes place at a higher power level when the load is pure 50R resistive.

At this point I believe I have proven conclusively the problem lies within the 87A. I suspect the culprit to be the output T/R board but I will need to find a way to prove/disprove the hypothesis. Regrettably this doesn't seem likely to be straight forward due to the multiple fault condition sensors in the 87A. I would otherwise simply by-pass the output T/R board then check to see whether the problem remains or has gone away.

I did drop a note to RF Concepts about this yesterday but received no reply before they closed up for the weekend.

The amp is covers off in the middle of the shack currently. If anyone has constructive advice to offer I would appreciate it.

Many thanks.

Bob, 5B4AGN

1144. Re: Alpha 87A sub harmonics?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-25 14:12:19 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1143 Message: 1144

HI Bob,

Did you also switch your filters and stubs between the ACOM and Alpha to make sure the problem wasn't in them? Sounds like a bad piece of coax in your stub acting up only when you stress it above 600W.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1145. Re: Alpha 87A sub harmonics?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-25 18:10:53 UTC
From: bob_5b4agn
Topic: 1143 Message: 1145

Hi Jerry

I agree it feels like it would be something like that but with the K3 driving the 87A directly and the 87A output via a 6ft jumper to a resistive dummy load the 1/2 frequency signal still appears. No stubs no BPFs.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jerry" <jsternmd@...> wrote:
>
> HI Bob,
>
> Did you also switch your filters and stubs between the ACOM and Alpha to
> make sure the problem wasn't in them? Sounds like a bad piece of coax in
> your stub acting up only when you stress it above 600W.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>

1146. Primary fuse blow

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-26 01:37:18 UTC
From: James C. Hall, MD
Topic: 1146 Message: 1146

Hello:

Went to the shack and powered on my Alpha 87A for first time in a week. Everything showed good and went into the 3 minute warm-up phase. About 2 minutes into it, the Alpha suddenly shut off. I thought What NOW ?! I unplugged the amp and let it sit for a minute and then re-plugged it in. Tried to power up and NOTHING. OK so now I plugged in the serial cable and tried to find out what gives. I get into Hyperterminal, put in the usual settings, connect and type VER and enter - NOTHING. Nada.

OK so now I'm starting to get worried. I check the circuit breaker for the 220 circuit and its good. The other amplifier on the circuit powers up fine. So I crawl back behind the amp and pull the primary fuses and find that one of them is open. It does not look different than the other good fuse, in other words, not blackened in the middle. None of that. So now I see why I couldn't even interrogate it.

Question: before I just replace the fuse, is there something else I should be looking for ? These are 20A, 250V ceramic fuses. Would a local electric supply have these fuses ?

Thanks in advance.

73, Jamie

WB4YDL

1147. Primary fuse blown

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-26 19:13:31 UTC
From: James C. Hall, MD
Topic: 1147 Message: 1147

Hello again:

I found my replacement fuses and went ahead and powered up. Everything warmed up fine and the error code was 24. OK so I tried to load it and set up for 20M. I found that the grid current was running a bit high and set it to auto tune. It seemed like it was having a hard time settling down. I noticed that it was taking more to drive it and I didn't get to 1500 watts with the usual exciter power - more like 1000 watts. I also noticed a more audible hum when transmitting.

I decided to shut down. Any ideas on the issue ?

I may talk to Molly about a trade up.

73, Jamie

WB4YDL

1148. Re: [Alpha87a] Primary fuse blown

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-27 16:26:08 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1147 Message: 1148

Hi James,

See the "File" directory, there some .txt filenwhich talk about, if i recall it correctly.

73s Tadej s52x

On Sunday, August 26, 2012, James C. Hall, MD wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello again:****
>
> ** **
>
> I found my replacement fuses and went ahead and powered up. Everything
> warmed up fine and the error code was 24. OK so I tried to load it and set
> up for 20M. I found that the grid current was running a bit high and set it
> to auto tune. It seemed like it was having a hard time settling down. I
> noticed that it was taking more to drive it and I didn’t get to 1500 watts
> with the usual exciter power – more like 1000 watts. I also noticed a more
> audible hum when transmitting.****
>
> ** **
>
> I decided to shut down. Any ideas on the issue ? ****
>
> ** **
>
> I may talk to Molly about a trade up.****
>
> ** **
>
> 73, Jamie****
>
> WB4YDL****
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1149. Case Screw Size?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-31 18:46:48 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1149 Message: 1149

Can anyone tell me the case screw size on the 87A? Thanks. Rick VE9HF

1150. Re: [Alpha87a] Case Screw Size?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-08-31 19:38:45 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1149 Message: 1150

Cover screws are 6-32 machine screws.

Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Aug 31, 2012 at 12:46 PM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Can anyone tell me the case screw size on the 87A? Thanks. Rick VE9HF
>
>
>

1151. Re: Case Screw Size?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-09-02 00:29:19 UTC
From: ve9hf
Topic: 1149 Message: 1151

Thanks.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Cover screws are 6-32 machine screws.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
> On Fri, Aug 31, 2012 at 12:46 PM, ve9hf <ve9hf@...> wrote:
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > Can anyone tell me the case screw size on the 87A? Thanks. Rick VE9HF
> >
> >
> >
>

1152. Noisy blower

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-01 10:40:58 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1152 Message: 1152

My 87A blower has gotten noisy. Is the only cure to replace it or can it be lubricated?

73, Jim N7US

1153. Re: [Alpha87a] Noisy blower

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-01 12:01:48 UTC
From: Paul Young G0HWC
Topic: 1152 Message: 1153

I tried to lubricate mine with no luck !
So had to replace it, mine got so loud it sounded like it was trying to escape LOL
Take photos when you replace fan, you will find full info in the documents
section of the group. Good luck

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: Jim McDonald
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 11:40 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Noisy blower

My 87A blower has gotten noisy. Is the only cure to replace it or can it be
lubricated?

73, Jim N7US

1154. high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-01 23:24:03 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1154 Message: 1154

I am new to the group. I just purchased an 87a that looks and works as new in high power. When I position the power switch to "low" the 87a will not power up. If I place it in "high" it powers up perfectly. After power up, if I place it in the low position, the amp drops to standby. Anyone have any ideas?
Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1155. Re: [Alpha87a] high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-01 23:39:54 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1154 Message: 1155

Alpha will tell you to always keep the button to High . I believe it is
even in the manual . John kb2huk
On 10/1/2012 7:24 PM, paul glassman wrote:
>
> I am new to the group. I just purchased an 87a that looks and works as
> new in high power. When I position the power switch to "low" the 87a
> will not power up. If I place it in "high" it powers up perfectly.
> After power up, if I place it in the low position, the amp drops to
> standby. Anyone have any ideas?
> Paul w8jn
>
> Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android
>
>

1156. Re: [Alpha87a] high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 01:29:07 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1154 Message: 1156

Paul,

I think that might be normal. The manual states:

"We recommend that you only run the Alpha 87A in high voltage mode, running your amp in low voltage mode with high plate current can damage components. "

It is not clear to me from the manual why they even have a Low Mode. Perhaps, someone more knowledgeable can answer that. In fact the answer may already be in the archives. I didn't check before I replied.

Best Regards,

Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Oct 1, 2012 at 7:24 PM, paul glassman <highschooldiving@yahoo.com>wrote:

> **
>
>
> I am new to the group. I just purchased an 87a that looks and works as
> new in high power. When I position the power switch to "low" the 87a will
> not power up. If I place it in "high" it powers up perfectly. After power
> up, if I place it in the low position, the amp drops to standby. Anyone
> have any ideas?
> Paul w8jn
>
> Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android
>
>
>

1157. RE: [Alpha87a] high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 02:07:42 UTC
From: Robert Carroll
Topic: 1154 Message: 1157

I don't know for certain and don't have an 87 but do have the 89, which is a manual tune version of it. The 89 has a high/low panel switch. In talking with

Alpha repair long ago they told me that having the switch was required to meet some sort of certification standard which was soon discarded. They also

told me never to run the 89 in the low power position. I have done so by accident on a few occasions and wondered why I had to drive into the grid high

current warning region and still only get 900W or so out. Fortunately when I had accidently hit the switch I realized my mistake before cooking anything.

The manual I received did not mention the high/low switch.

As best I recall, though I have not taken a close look lately, my old 86 has a SSB/CW switch which serves the same purpose. Again, Alpha told me to run

in the SSB position even when running cw.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dennis Klipa
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] high low

Paul,

I think that might be normal. The manual states:

"We recommend that you only run the Alpha 87A in high voltage mode, running your amp in low voltage mode with high plate current can damage components.
"

It is not clear to me from the manual why they even have a Low Mode. Perhaps, someone more knowledgeable can answer that. In fact the answer may already be in the archives. I didn't check before I replied.

Best Regards,

Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Oct 1, 2012 at 7:24 PM, paul glassman <highschooldiving@...>
wrote:

I am new to the group. I just purchased an 87a that looks and works as new in high power. When I position the power switch to "low" the 87a will not power up. If I place it in "high" it powers up perfectly. After power up, if I place it in the low position, the amp drops to standby. Anyone have any ideas?
Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1158. Re: [Alpha87a] high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 02:12:47 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1154 Message: 1158

Dennis,
  Thanks. That quote is not in the 1997 manual. Molly indicated that the low voltage mode was to satisfy Japanese regulations. I guess they must have defeated its function in the USA 1997 model.
    Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1159. Re: high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 02:13:23 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1154 Message: 1159

Hello Paul and the Group,

The HI/LO high voltage positions were for the old FCC rules that called for lower INPUT power on CW. Because the LO high voltage makes the tubes run higher plate current, it is always better to use HI high voltage, the LO position has no use with modern FCC rules.

Which fault is the amp getting? It should be reported by the flashing SEGMENT lights after the amp is turned back on. There are one or two faults that are not shown correctly by the LEDs, so the best way is to use the serial port to read the fault log.

Is the amp tapped correctly for line voltage? It may be set wrong for your actual voltage, the ranges are 250-230, 230-210, and 210-190 vac. Be sure it is correct, measure your line at the amp.

73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1160. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 02:21:59 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1154 Message: 1160

Glen,
Always good to hear from the boss!!! No fault codes, just no function for low. This 87a appears to have its low function defeated so that it cannot be used in low position. I talked to Molly and she indicated it was a Japaneese requirement. I miss my 9500. Talked to her today about another one.
73 Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1161. RE: [Alpha87a] high low

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-02 05:54:10 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1154 Message: 1161
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Alpha Tech support told me to run my 87A in high so that is what I do.

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Robert Carroll
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 9:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] high low

I don't know for certain and don't have an 87 but do have the 89, which is a
manual tune version of it. The 89 has a high/low panel switch. In talking
with

Alpha repair long ago they told me that having the switch was required to
meet some sort of certification standard which was soon discarded. They
also

told me never to run the 89 in the low power position. I have done so by
accident on a few occasions and wondered why I had to drive into the grid
high

current warning region and still only get 900W or so out. Fortunately when
I had accidently hit the switch I realized my mistake before cooking a
nything.

The manual I received did not mention the high/low switch.

As best I recall, though I have not taken a close look lately, my old 86 has
a SSB/CW switch which serves the same purpose. Again, Alpha told me to run

in the SSB position even when running cw.

73

Bob W2WG

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Dennis Klipa
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] high low

Paul,

I think that might be normal. The manual states:

"We recommend that you only run the Alpha 87A in high voltage mode, running your amp in low voltage mode with high plate current can damage components.
"

It is not clear to me from the manual why they even have a Low Mode. Perhaps, someone more knowledgeable can answer that. In fact the answer may already be in the archives. I didn't check before I replied.

Best Regards,

Dennis, N8ERF

On Mon, Oct 1, 2012 at 7:24 PM, paul glassman <highschooldiving@...>
wrote:

I am new to the group. I just purchased an 87a that looks and works as new in high power. When I position the power switch to "low" the 87a will not power up. If I place it in "high" it powers up perfectly. After power up, if I place it in the low position, the amp drops to standby. Anyone have any ide as?
Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1162. High Input SWR 14 Mhz and 21 Mhz Only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-08 01:51:12 UTC
From: jsternmd@att.net
Topic: 1162 Message: 1162

I have not changed my setup but I notice now that on 20m and 15m my IC-7800 is showing high SWR into the Alpha 87A - with only 15-20w the IC-7800 is showing SWR =3 or more. I checked this with the 87A into a dummy load and same thing . All other bands - 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 17m, 12m and 10m all show SWR=1. I have about 15-20' RG-8X between the IC-7800 and 87A with only 2' between 87A and Dummy load. Could the coax between Icom and Alpha deteriorated over time? I have loosened and retightened all coax connectors. Other than the 3 wire safety ground in 87A and Icom, in the dummy load configuration I have no additional RF grounding to keep it simple.

Any suggestions appreciated.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1163. Re: High Input SWR 14 Mhz and 21 Mhz Only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-08 13:05:20 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1162 Message: 1163

A problem with the input SWR can be caused by the bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to the band in question. Try transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on) and note the input SWR. Then manually select a higher band, then go back to the band under test, and try transmitting again. If the tuning or input SWR changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.
We can send you instructions to do it, you will need to have a computer communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch.

Glenn AE0Q

==========

The memory address for the bandswitch positions are:

160m b7bb
80m b7bc
40m b7bd
30m b7be
20m b7bf
17m b7c0
15m b7c1
12m b7c2
10m b7c3

To adjust the 20m input SWR:
From the terminal program type,

EXT ON (turns on 'factory mode')
DM b7bf (write down first two digits)
W b7bf xx (xx = original hex number up or down 2)

If it works when you come from a lower band, increment the number. If it works coming from higher band, decrement the number.

When done type:
EXT OFF

1164. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: High Input SWR 14 Mhz and 21 Mhz Only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-08 16:51:39 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1162 Message: 1164

Hi Glen,

The amp tunes up fine. I was actually trying to work a TT8 DX station on 20m last night and was getting almost full 1500W output but noticed that I was driving the amp with more than my usual 50 watts. I then glanced at my IC-7800 SWR and it was peaking on voice just over 3. So the amp is not faulting and I can get full output I am concerned about my $10K xcvr hihi. I put another high quality digital SWR meter between the IC-7800 and the 87A to confirm the high SWR and found that the problem had gone away. I realized I had extended the 16' coax by another 3' with the patch cables for the additional meter. I verified by taking out the meter and cables and problem was there again on 20m and 15m. I added a 3' length to the coax from the 7800 to the 87A and have gotten rid of the issue it seems. Now 20m and 15m are very well behaved and the only downside is a little blip on the 7800 SWR (around 1.5) for 160m and 12m. Reminds of my Collins equipment that specifies using a 20.5' coax between some exciters and their amps.

On another related question - how often should the bandswitch contacts be cleaned (deoxit and paper)?

73 Jerry
K1JOS
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2012 9:05 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: jsternmd@...
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: High Input SWR 14 Mhz and 21 Mhz Only

A problem with the input SWR can be caused by the bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to the band in question.
Try transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on) and note the input SWR. Then manually select a higher band, then go back to the band under test, and try transmitting again. If the tuning or input SWR changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.
We can send you instructions to do it, you will need to have a computer communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch.

Glenn AE0Q

1165. Re: High Input SWR 14 Mhz and 21 Mhz Only

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-08 18:53:32 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1162 Message: 1165

My guess is that the 20m and 15m contacts on the input band switch wafer are not making full contact, are dirty or are worn out.

The factory calibrates the band switch by lining up the contacts and storing the motor position in non-volatile memory. It's possible for the switch to get out of alignment on one or more bands. I'm not sure what causes this, but I suppose if the contacts were just barely touching when the amp was calibrated, subsequent wear and tear might cause the contact area to decrease to the point of not fully conducting.

There's a relatively simple procedure for calibrating the switch contacts. Basically, you locate the motor position value for the band in question, write it down, increase or decrease it by one, then write it back to non-volatile memory. Then you check the SWR. Repeat until you get the best match.

You'll need two things to do the procedure: 1) An RS-232 connection to the 87A, and 2) the memory locations and patching procedure. You should contact the factory for #2.

If calibrating the band switch doesn't fix the problem, the most likely cause is worn out contacts on the input band switch wafer. A new switch isn't very expensive and it's not terribly difficult to replace if you are accustomed to working in side small spaces in electronic equipment. Again, consult with the factory.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "jsternmd@..." <jsternmd@...> wrote:
>
> I have not changed my setup but I notice now that on 20m and 15m my IC-7800 is showing high SWR into the Alpha 87A - with only 15-20w the IC-7800 is showing SWR =3 or more. I checked this with the 87A into a dummy load and same thing . All other bands - 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 17m, 12m and 10m all show SWR=1. I have about 15-20' RG-8X between the IC-7800 and 87A with only 2' between 87A and Dummy load. Could the coax between Icom and Alpha deteriorated over time? I have loosened and retightened all coax connectors. Other than the 3 wire safety ground in 87A and Icom, in the dummy load configuration I have no additional RF grounding to keep it simple.
>
> Any suggestions appreciated.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>

1166. Storage of Load/Tune/Segment Parameters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-09 07:47:12 UTC
From: dk1bn@amsat.org
Topic: 1166 Message: 1166

Hi all,

we are using an Alpha87a in our remote setup and it is running smoothly since almost 1 year. Almost no problem in tuning with AlphaMax.

But I have one problem I cannot store the tune/load/segment settings. If I change band I always get the default values. I tried to do this with the remote program. We tried it once using the front panel and it did not work either.

Any idea?

73
Walter
DK1BN

1167. Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-12 21:52:53 UTC
From: wb2kfh
Topic: 1167 Message: 1167

I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this. Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or "excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600 even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay keyed forever at 1300 watts and never trip or default? Anyone have this or any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this. The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at n2bj@.... I have tried changing length of cable between Icom 7600 and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine
Thanks
Barry

1168. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-12 22:21:43 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 1167 Message: 1168

I wonder if it could be RF getting into your system. Try a 31 mix on various cables including the coax. It's just a guess… I've found that sometimes, a few hundred watts makes a difference in RFI situations. RFI is quirky.

I assume it doesn't do it into a dummy load.

GL 73
Dale, k9vuj

On 12, Oct 2012, at 16:52, wb2kfh <n2bj@...> wrote:

> I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this. Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or "excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600 even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay keyed forever at 1300 watts and never trip or default? Anyone have this or any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this. The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at n2bj@.... I have tried changing length of cable between Icom 7600 and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine
> Thanks
> Barry
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1169. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-12 23:01:03 UTC
From: Barry J Cohen
Topic: 1167 Message: 1169

Hi Dale

Thanks for your response. Not sure if it is RF as it happens on any band any antenna even the open wire with tuner . If I key the transmitter in the amp with 1300 watts on RTTY and don't send any letters FSK the amp stays keyed forever at 1300 watts and keeps going. If I start sending letters within 12-13 seconds amp faults.

I have tried all the ferrites
Thanks

Barry

www.n2bj.com

-----Original Message-----
From: dalej [mailto:dj2001x@...]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: n2bj@...
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

I wonder if it could be RF getting into your system. Try a 31 mix on various cables including the coax. It's just a guess. I've found that sometimes, a few hundred watts makes a difference in RFI situations. RFI is quirky.

I assume it doesn't do it into a dummy load.

GL 73
Dale, k9vuj

On 12, Oct 2012, at 16:52, wb2kfh <n2bj@...> wrote:

> I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this. Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or "excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600 even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay keyed forever at 1300 watts and never trip or default? Anyone have this or any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this. The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at n2bj@.... I have tried changing length of cable between Icom 7600 and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine

> Thanks
> Barry
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1170. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-13 00:08:48 UTC
From: dalej
Topic: 1167 Message: 1170

Barry,

Are you using a computer to generate the RTTY?

It's difficult to really know what is going on with your setup from far away.

If when it is doing this, if you could pull off the keying line from your radio to the amp and see if it stops? How about from the amp itself.

What is the fault code? You have to take the one step at a time troubleshooting method. It is something close to your shack/setup, in my opinion. If it is not, then you should call Alpha for more advice.

Dale, k9vuj

I would suggest to examine your whole setup, be it with a computer or other arraignment and go from there.
On 12, Oct 2012, at 18:01, Barry J Cohen <n2bj@...> wrote:

> Hi Dale
>
> Thanks for your response. Not sure if it is RF as it happens on any band any
> antenna even the open wire with tuner . If I key the transmitter in the amp
> with 1300 watts on RTTY and don't send any letters FSK the amp stays keyed
> forever at 1300 watts and keeps going. If I start sending letters within
> 12-13 seconds amp faults.
>
>
> I have tried all the ferrites
> Thanks
>
> Barry
>
> www.n2bj.com
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: dalej [mailto:dj2001x@...]
> Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:22 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Cc: n2bj@comcast.net
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?
>
> I wonder if it could be RF getting into your system. Try a 31 mix on
> various cables including the coax. It's just a guess. I've found that
> sometimes, a few hundred watts makes a difference in RFI situations. RFI is
> quirky.

>
> I assume it doesn't do it into a dummy load.
>
> GL 73
> Dale, k9vuj
>
>
> On 12, Oct 2012, at 16:52, wb2kfh <n2bj@comcast.net> wrote:
>
>> I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this.
> Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending
> letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or
> "excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600
> even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay
> keyed forever at 1300 watts and never trip or default? Anyone have this or
> any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this.
> The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at
> n2bj@.... I have tried changing length of cable between Icom 7600
> and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power
> reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR
> meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought
> maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine
>> Thanks
>> Barry
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>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1171. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-13 13:37:00 UTC
From: John Elsik
Topic: 1167 Message: 1171

Hi Barry

You don't happen to have RS232 connected to the amp do you? Disconnect it from the amp and try it. I have had that odd ball problem, not like you are having though. Turn the drive way down, to say 400W out, trying to eliminate a RFI issue. I assume it works fine on SSB?

73 John wa5zup

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Barry J Cohen
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:01 PM
To: 'dalej'; Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Hi Dale

Thanks for your response. Not sure if it is RF as it happens on any band any antenna even the open wire with tuner . If I key the transmitter in the amp with 1300 watts on RTTY and don't send any letters FSK the amp stays keyed forever at 1300 watts and keeps going. If I start sending letters within 12-13 seconds amp faults.

I have tried all the ferrites
Thanks

Barry

www.n2bj.com

-----Original Message-----
From: dalej [mailto:dj2001x@... <mailto:dj2001x%40comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
Cc: n2bj@... <mailto:n2bj%40comcast.net>
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

I wonder if it could be RF getting into your system. Try a 31 mix on various cables including the coax. It's just a guess. I've found that sometimes, a few hundred watts makes a difference in RFI situations. RFI is quirky.

I assume it doesn't do it into a dummy load.

GL 73
Dale, k9vuj

On 12, Oct 2012, at 16:52, wb2kfh <n2bj@...
<mailto:n2bj%40comcast.net> > wrote:

> I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this.
Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending
letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or
"excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600
even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay
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any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this.
The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at
n2bj@... <mailto:n2bj%40comcast.net> . I have tried changing length
of cable between Icom 7600
and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power
reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR
meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought
maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine
> Thanks
> Barry
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1172. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-10-13 13:55:27 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 1167 Message: 1172

While I hope it's something simple like RFI, it could be an issue in the amp, too. Dick WC1M wrote an interesting article on all of the ways he's seen 87s fail ... here's a link to it:

http://lists.contesting.com/archives//html/Amps/2012-09/msg00090.html

-Brian N9ADG

From: John Elsik <wa5zup@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, October 13, 2012 6:37 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Hi Barry
You don't happen to have RS232 connected to the amp do you? Disconnect it from the amp and try it. I have had that odd ball problem, not like you are having though. Turn the drive way down, to say 400W out, trying to eliminate a RFI issue. I assume it works fine on SSB?
73 John wa5zup

From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Barry J Cohen
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:01 PM
To: 'dalej'; Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

Hi Dale

Thanks for your response. Not sure if it is RF as it happens on any band any antenna even the open wire with tuner . If I key the transmitter in the amp with 1300 watts on RTTY and don't send any letters FSK the amp stays keyed forever at 1300 watts and keeps going. If I start sending letters within 12-13 seconds amp faults.

I have tried all the ferrites
Thanks

Barry

www.n2bj.com

-----Original Message-----
From: dalej [mailto:dj2001x@...]
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2012 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: n2bj@...
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A trips only when sending letters on RTTY?

I wonder if it could be RF getting into your system. Try a 31 mix on various cables including the coax. It's just a guess. I've found that sometimes, a few hundred watts makes a difference in RFI situations. RFI is quirky.

I assume it doesn't do it into a dummy load.

GL 73
Dale, k9vuj

On 12, Oct 2012, at 16:52, wb2kfh <n2bj@...> wrote:

> I have an interesting issue and wonder if anyone else experienced this. Using the Alpha with ICOM 7600 and have an issue on RTTY only when sending letters after 10 seconds it trips and message either says "abnormal gain" or "excessive VSWR" If I key the tranmitter on the RTTY position of the IC7600 even at 1300 W out without sending letters or RTTY message it will stay keyed forever at 1300 watts and never trip or default? Anyone have this or any ideas? Getting ready for MAKrothen contest and would love to fix this. The answer for now is short messages and its OK? Please answer me direct at n2bj@.... I have tried changing length of cable between Icom 7600 and input of amp and the output cable length as well with same result. Power reflected is just a couple of watts on the meter and the Icom Built in VSWR meter shows almost flat VSWR between the radio and amp. I'm stumped! Thought maybe the ICom was cutting out but tried it with my SPE amp and its fine
> Thanks
> Barry
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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1173. Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 20:20:31 UTC
From: dk1bn@amsat.org
Topic: 645 Message: 1173

Hello all,

we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward current below min required value to key down). We checked the pin diodes they seem to be ok. No fault at RX only even at first there was "no receive". So we thought that there is a problem with a RX PIN diode (together with the TX PIN diode) or something like that.
But after some tests with a noise generator we detected that after switching 2 times the "operate/standby" switch that receive came back on and was normal. After key down we got fault 9 - (without any RF). We checked the TX Pin diodes and all voltages.
T_Bias at "RX" was about +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V, R_Bias ok (at HVPS about 950V) and on TX (fault 9) about +950V, "-109V" = 0V like it should be (I think)
We disconnected the TX PIN Diodes (at one end end)and with this type of multimeter (DC 2.4V) we measured about 600K in forward and infinite in backward polarity. So there seems to be that the TX Pin diodes are ok. Both had the same values- We made quite a lot of tests even removed the output TRboard and inspected it for bad soldering and soldered some pins which could be bad.
But nevertheless we still get "fault 9". Next step will be to measure the T_Bias on "key down"(no RF) with a scope and see if we really see -30V on T_Bias (cathode of TX PIN diode). The RX PIN diodes (also the PIN diode at the input) seem to be ok. But these RX PIN diodes we did only check with the "diode check" of the multimeter although we could hear the blocking of the RX path etc.during key down.
Just to make the function clear. On RX state we should have T_Bias +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V and on TX (key down) state T_Bias -30V, R_Bias +950V,"-109V" 0V. Is this correct?

What voltage is monitored by the AD of the uC for the fault - only PINS_OK?

Any idea whats going on before we buy new PIN diodes and change them (quite an expensive job)? :-(.

I did read almost every post in the group concerning PIN diode faults.

73
Walter
DK1BN

1174. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 20:49:21 UTC
From: Al Waller
Topic: 645 Message: 1174

Blown fuse on the pin diode board? That causes no receive.

Al

On 11/05/2012 15:20, dk1bn@... wrote:
>
> Hello all,
>
> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
> current below min required value to key down). We checked the pin
> diodes they seem to be ok. No fault at RX only even at first there was
> "no receive". So we thought that there is a problem with a RX PIN
> diode (together with the TX PIN diode) or something like that.
> But after some tests with a noise generator we detected that after
> switching 2 times the "operate/standby" switch that receive came back
> on and was normal. After key down we got fault 9 - (without any RF).
> We checked the TX Pin diodes and all voltages.
> T_Bias at "RX" was about +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V, R_Bias
> ok (at HVPS about 950V) and on TX (fault 9) about +950V, "-109V" = 0V
> like it should be (I think)
> We disconnected the TX PIN Diodes (at one end end)and with this type
> of multimeter (DC 2.4V) we measured about 600K in forward and
> infinite in backward polarity. So there seems to be that the TX Pin
> diodes are ok. Both had the same values- We made quite a lot of tests
> even removed the output TRboard and inspected it for bad soldering and
> soldered some pins which could be bad.
> But nevertheless we still get "fault 9". Next step will be to measure
> the T_Bias on "key down"(no RF) with a scope and see if we really see
> -30V on T_Bias (cathode of TX PIN diode). The RX PIN diodes (also the
> PIN diode at the input) seem to be ok. But these RX PIN diodes we did
> only check with the "diode check" of the multimeter although we could
> hear the blocking of the RX path etc.during key down.
> Just to make the function clear. On RX state we should have T_Bias
> +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V and on TX (key down) state T_Bias
> -30V, R_Bias +950V,"-109V" 0V. Is this correct?
>
> What voltage is monitored by the AD of the uC for the fault - only
> PINS_OK?
>
> Any idea whats going on before we buy new PIN diodes and change them
> (quite an expensive job)? :-(.
>
> I did read almost every post in the group concerning PIN diode faults.
>

> 73
> Walter
> DK1BN
>
>

1175. Re: Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 21:30:01 UTC
From: dk1bn@amsat.org
Topic: 645 Message: 1175

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Al Waller <k3tkj@...> wrote:
>
> Blown fuse on the pin diode board? That causes no receive.
>
> Al
>
No, fuses are ok.... and receive is working normally now after switching Operate/Standby several times...strange.

Walter

> On 11/05/2012 15:20, dk1bn@... wrote:
> >
> > Hello all,
> >
> > we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
> > tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
> > current below min required value to key down). We checked the pin
> > diodes they seem to be ok. No fault at RX only even at first there was
> > "no receive". So we thought that there is a problem with a RX PIN
> > diode (together with the TX PIN diode) or something like that.
> > But after some tests with a noise generator we detected that after
> > switching 2 times the "operate/standby" switch that receive came back
> > on and was normal. After key down we got fault 9 - (without any RF).
> > We checked the TX Pin diodes and all voltages.
> > T_Bias at "RX" was about +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V, R_Bias
> > ok (at HVPS about 950V) and on TX (fault 9) about +950V, "-109V" = 0V
> > like it should be (I think)
> > We disconnected the TX PIN Diodes (at one end end)and with this type
> > of multimeter (DC 2.4V) we measured about 600K in forward and
> > infinite in backward polarity. So there seems to be that the TX Pin
> > diodes are ok. Both had the same values- We made quite a lot of tests
> > even removed the output TRboard and inspected it for bad soldering and
> > soldered some pins which could be bad.
> > But nevertheless we still get "fault 9". Next step will be to measure
> > the T_Bias on "key down"(no RF) with a scope and see if we really see
> > -30V on T_Bias (cathode of TX PIN diode). The RX PIN diodes (also the
> > PIN diode at the input) seem to be ok. But these RX PIN diodes we did
> > only check with the "diode check" of the multimeter although we could
> > hear the blocking of the RX path etc.during key down.
> > Just to make the function clear. On RX state we should have T_Bias
> > +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V and on TX (key down) state T_Bias
> > -30V, R_Bias +950V,"-109V" 0V. Is this correct?
> >
> > What voltage is monitored by the AD of the uC for the fault - only

> > PINS_OK?
> >
> > Any idea whats going on before we buy new PIN diodes and change them
> > (quite an expensive job)? :-(.
> >
> > I did read almost every post in the group concerning PIN diode faults.
> >
> > 73
> > Walter
> > DK1BN
> >
> >
>

1176. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 21:44:12 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 645 Message: 1176

Hello Walter,

Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts or further help.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 1:20 PM, <dk1bn@...> wrote:

> **
>
> Hello all,
>
> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
> current below min required value to key down). We checked the pin diodes
> they seem to be ok. No fault at RX only even at first there was "no
> receive". So we thought that there is a problem with a RX PIN diode
> (together with the TX PIN diode) or something like that.
> But after some tests with a noise generator we detected that after
> switching 2 times the "operate/standby" switch that receive came back on
> and was normal. After key down we got fault 9 - (without any RF). We
> checked the TX Pin diodes and all voltages.
> T_Bias at "RX" was about +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V, R_Bias ok
> (at HVPS about 950V) and on TX (fault 9) about +950V, "-109V" = 0V like it
> should be (I think)
> We disconnected the TX PIN Diodes (at one end end)and with this type of
> multimeter (DC 2.4V) we measured about 600K in forward and infinite in
> backward polarity. So there seems to be that the TX Pin diodes are ok. Both
> had the same values- We made quite a lot of tests even removed the output
> TRboard and inspected it for bad soldering and soldered some pins which
> could be bad.
> But nevertheless we still get "fault 9". Next step will be to measure the
> T_Bias on "key down"(no RF) with a scope and see if we really see -30V on
> T_Bias (cathode of TX PIN diode). The RX PIN diodes (also the PIN diode at
> the input) seem to be ok. But these RX PIN diodes we did only check with
> the "diode check" of the multimeter although we could hear the blocking of
> the RX path etc.during key down.
> Just to make the function clear. On RX state we should have T_Bias +30V,
> R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V and on TX (key down) state T_Bias -30V,
> R_Bias +950V,"-109V" 0V. Is this correct?
>
> What voltage is monitored by the AD of the uC for the fault - only PINS_OK?
>

> Any idea whats going on before we buy new PIN diodes and change them
> (quite an expensive job)? :-(.
>
> I did read almost every post in the group concerning PIN diode faults.
>
> 73
> Walter
> DK1BN
>

1177. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 21:46:18 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 645 Message: 1177

Hello Walter,

Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts or further help.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 1:20 PM, <dk1bn@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello all,
>
> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
> current below min required value to key down).
>

Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads of the diode.

The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short. If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also

Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the safety Choke board.

Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.

Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!

1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there
is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module). Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.

2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option go to step 3.

3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad, problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned on/off by the +/-30v.

4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function.

The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it, they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.

There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be checked if the other 4 are OK.

1178. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-05 22:59:48 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 645 Message: 1178

Hello Glenn,

is the process for troubleshooting the fault 8 the same as fault 9?

tnx, 73s Tadej S52X

2012/11/5 Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>

> **
>
>
> Hello Walter,
>
> Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I
> think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through
> the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts or
> further help.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 1:20 PM, <dk1bn@...> wrote:
>
>> **
>>
>>
>> Hello all,
>>
>> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
>> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
>> current below min required value to key down).
>>
>
> Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually
> caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.
>
> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
> "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the
> chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads
> of the diode.
>
> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter

> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>
>
> With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the
> resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short.
> If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the
> two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small
> blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little
> circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it
> should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is
> something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also
> Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the
> chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the safety Choke
> board.
>
> Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw
> of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.
>
> Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is
> 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!
>
> 1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on
> The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts
> when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First
> remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke
> Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc)
> there
> is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module).
> Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.
>
> 2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power
> Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This
> can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option
> go to step 3.
>
> 3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v
> there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad,
> problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if
> voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted
> Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned
> on/off by the +/-30v.
>
> 4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be
> +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.
>
> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the

> "diode check" function.
>
> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>
> The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with
> one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it,
> they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses
> a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.
>
> There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be
> checked if the other 4 are OK.
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1179. Alpha 87a - Hard fault 24 with soft fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-06 07:42:15 UTC
From: Bostjan Voncina - S55O
Topic: 1179 Message: 1179

Hello !

I'm sorry to bother you, but my alpha is making my hair going gray. I've bought this alpha 87a model second hand. when it works, it's a complete beauty, but....

I had some problems with the transformer, but they are solved now. It worked ok, the last cqww SSB and that's the only contest i could operate with her all the contest. She behaves like a problematic wife :))

So now i got these symptoms:
The INPUT SWR between the station and the amp is high. It gets up to 1: 2,5 or more SWR instead of the usual 1:1,5 max

The amp get's out max 1kw power, but when i try to tune it, it goes fault 17, and usualy if i try again it goes out with a fault 24. It doesnt realy matter what power i put as input, it goes out when i try to tune it. or when alphamax kicks in to tune it itself. (tryed both manual and auto).

I tryed the procedure listed for the fault 17 (GPIO TEST), to check the input and output power meters and they work, +- 2W difference in the two when i measured the power going trough the amp in standby mode. So the diodes of the power meters seems to be ok for the input and output.

I'll try to do the folowing now checking for the faults for the fault 24.

Any hints other than this ?
All the best and thank you for your time

Boštjan - Ian S55O

<bfocken@...>Alpha 87A Fault 24

1) Do you notice that the amp is always on the same band when this happens?

AT first it was on 15m, then it gradualy went to all bands!

2) Check the AC mains voltage and what you have the 87A set for. You must measure the AC voltage with a digital multimeter, the actual voltage must be within +/- 10 vac of what the amp is set for. Your line voltage may vary quite a bit from one season to another.

3) Unplug the amp and remove the cover. On the AC voltage selection terminal strip, the heavy white wire goes on the first of 4 terminals and does not move. For 240vac, the other heavy white wire should be on the 4th screw terminal (2 empty screws between them).

4) Visually check that connector J3 on the right rear edge of the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS) is plugged onto the pins on the LVPS circuit board. This connector is just below the horizontal circuit board, and next to the white supporting post. It can be pulled loose when installing the transformer. Look at the red connectors in the same area of the LVPS to be sure they are all plugged in.

5) Measure from the gold-colored resistor on the chassis of the amp (left side of RF section) to ground to see if it is shorted to the chassis. You should measure 18 ohms across the two parallel resistors. The resistance to the chassis on either end should be more than 100 kohms. If it is too low it will drag down the -109vdc.

6) Look carefully at the monoblock HV bridge rectifier on the HV circuit board (about 1.5" square, black, 4 leads coming out of it), inspect it to be sure there are no burned areas or signs of arcing. If it is mounted under the HV circuit board, it may have fallen off the board and be shorting to something.

7) Check the three resistors R15, R16, R17 (all 1 megohm, measure about 667k in the circuit), R20 (measures 3.8k to ground) and R38 (1 kohm), all located on the left side of the HV circuit board. This is the HV monitoring circuit and can cause Fault 24 even if the HV is good.
8) Check transistors and regulator on the right side of the HV circuit board, be sure they are not bent or broken

1180. Re: Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-06 12:40:11 UTC
From: dk1bn@amsat.org
Topic: 645 Message: 1180

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Walter,
>
> Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I
> think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through
> the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts or
> further help.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>

<snip>

Thanks Glenn,

we use the instructions and see what we get.

Unfortunately the amp is still at our remote station so I can check it only during the weekend.

73
Walter
DK1BN

1181. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a - Hard fault 24 with soft fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-06 14:18:39 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1179 Message: 1181

Hello Boštjan,

The bandswitch probably needs to be adjusted a little. Below are the instructions for this, using 17m as an example. For other bands, change the memory location according to the chart below.
A problem with the tuning on one band can be caused by the bandswitch being
a little bit out of alignment on that band (I will use 17m as an example). This
can also cause high input SWR on that band.
To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to 17m. Try transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on). Then manually select a higher band, then go to 17m, and try transmitting again. If the tuning or the input SWR changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.

Glenn AE0Q (ex GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY)

==========

The memory address for the 17m bandswitch position is B7C0 .

From the terminal program type:

EXT ON (turns on 'factory mode')
DM B7C0 (write down first two digits)
W B7C0 xx (xx = original hex number up or down 2)

If it works when you come from a lower band, increment the number. If it works coming from higher band, decrement the number.

When done type:
EXT OFF

---

memory locations for the bandswitch positions:

160m b7bb
80m b7bc
40m b7bd
30m b7be
20m b7bf
17m b7c0
15m b7c1
12m b7c2
10m b7c3

On Tue, Nov 6, 2012 at 12:42 AM, Bostjan Voncina - S55O <
bostjan.voncina@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello !
>
> I'm sorry to bother you, but my alpha is making my hair going gray. I've
> bought this alpha 87a model second hand. when it works, it's a complete
> beauty, but....
>
> I had some problems with the transformer, but they are solved now. It
> worked ok, the last cqww SSB and that's the only contest i could operate
> with her all the contest. She behaves like a problematic wife :))
>
> So now i got these symptoms:
> The INPUT SWR between the station and the amp is high. It gets up to 1:
> 2,5 or more SWR instead of the usual 1:1,5 max
>
>

1182. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-06 14:46:28 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 645 Message: 1182

Hello Tadej,

Yes, the instructions are very much the same. The usual cause of Fault 8 is "leaky" transmit PIN diodes. Also check the fuses in the Output T/R Module.

Measure voltage at any end of R13 (the large 20 ohm 50w and 180 ohm 10W resistors connected in parallel), the voltage should be about 100 volts. If it is zero, check the voltage at Pin 3 if J12 on the ABX-X178 assembly. If the voltage is less that 70 volts, check D22 and R40 on ABX-X178.

If the voltage is less than 69 volts but greater than 5 volts, a transmit PIN diode is bad.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 3:59 PM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello Glenn,
>
> is the process for troubleshooting the fault 8 the same as fault 9?
>
> tnx, 73s Tadej S52X
>
>
> 2012/11/5 Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>
>
>>
>> Hello Walter,
>>
>> Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I
>> think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through
>> the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts or
>> further help.
>>
>> Glenn AE0Q
>>
>>
>> On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 1:20 PM, <dk1bn@...> wrote:
>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Hello all,

>>>
>>> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
>>> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
>>> current below min required value to key down).
>>>
>>
>> Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually
>> caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.
>>
>> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
>> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
>> "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the
>> chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads
>> of the diode.
>>
>> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
>> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
>> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
>> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
>> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
>> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
>> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
>> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>>
>>
>> With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the
>> resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short.
>> If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the
>> two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small
>> blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little
>> circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it
>> should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is
>> something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also
>> Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the
>> chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the safety Choke
>> board.
>>
>> Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw
>> of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.
>>
>> Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is
>> 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!
>>
>> 1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on
>> The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts
>> when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First
>> remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety
>> Choke
>> Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc)
>> there

>> is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module).
>> Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.
>>
>> 2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power
>> Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This
>> can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option
>> go to step 3.
>>
>> 3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v
>> there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad,
>> problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if
>> voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted
>> Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned
>> on/off by the +/-30v.
>>
>> 4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be
>> +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.
>>
>> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
>> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
>> "diode check" function.
>>
>> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
>> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
>> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
>> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
>> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
>> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
>> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
>> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>>
>> The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with
>> one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it,
>> they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses
>> a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.
>>
>> There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be
>> checked if the other 4 are OK.
>>
>>
>

1183. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a - Hard fault 24 with soft fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-06 21:50:33 UTC
From: Bostjan Voncina - S55O
Topic: 1179 Message: 1183

Thank you Glenn, this seems to have solved the problem.
I manuali moved the bandswitch and moved some of the bands with the
software (the ones that werent aligned).

Best of luck and thx

Boštjan s55o

2012/11/6 Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>

> Hello Boštjan,
>
> The bandswitch probably needs to be adjusted a little. Below are the
> instructions for this, using 17m as an example. For other bands, change
> the memory location according to the chart below.
> A problem with the tuning on one band can be caused by the bandswitch
> being
> a little bit out of alignment on that band (I will use 17m as an example).
> This
> can also cause high input SWR on that band.
> To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to 17m. Try
> transmitting and tuning the amp. If you are able to tune it up, save the
> setting (press ENTER and then press the segment that you are on). Then
> manually select a higher band, then go to 17m, and try transmitting
> again.
> If the tuning or the input SWR changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it
> is the bandswitch alignment.
>
> Glenn AE0Q (ex GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, SV0WY)
>
> ==========
>
> The memory address for the 17m bandswitch position is B7C0 .
>
> From the terminal program type:
>
> EXT ON (turns on 'factory mode')
> DM B7C0 (write down first two digits)
> W B7C0 xx (xx = original hex number up or down 2)
>
> If it works when you come from a lower band, increment the number. If
> it works coming from higher band, decrement the number.
>
> When done type:
> EXT OFF
>

> ---
>
> memory locations for the bandswitch positions:
>
> 160m b7bb
> 80m b7bc
> 40m b7bd
> 30m b7be
> 20m b7bf
> 17m b7c0
> 15m b7c1
> 12m b7c2
> 10m b7c3
>
> ---
>
>
>
>
> On Tue, Nov 6, 2012 at 12:42 AM, Bostjan Voncina - S55O <
> bostjan.voncina@...> wrote:
>
>> **
>>
>>
>> Hello !
>>
>> I'm sorry to bother you, but my alpha is making my hair going gray. I've
>> bought this alpha 87a model second hand. when it works, it's a complete
>> beauty, but....
>>
>> I had some problems with the transformer, but they are solved now. It
>> worked ok, the last cqww SSB and that's the only contest i could operate
>> with her all the contest. She behaves like a problematic wife :))
>>
>> So now i got these symptoms:
>> The INPUT SWR between the station and the amp is high. It gets up to 1:
>> 2,5 or more SWR instead of the usual 1:1,5 max
>>
>>
>

1184. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-07 22:33:39 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 645 Message: 1184

Hi Glenn,

my 87a is fine. I see similar instructions for fault 9 in "File" section of reflector and just ask to be sure they are OK.

Some years ago I did the extensive search about 87a and fulfill the various reflector section with all useful informations I found.

Thanks, Tadej S52X

2012/11/6 Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>

> **
>
>
> Hello Tadej,
>
> Yes, the instructions are very much the same. The usual cause of Fault
> 8 is "leaky" transmit PIN diodes. Also check the fuses in the Output T/R
> Module.
>
> Measure voltage at any end of R13 (the large 20 ohm 50w and 180 ohm 10W
> resistors connected in parallel), the voltage should be about 100 volts.
> If it is zero, check the voltage at Pin 3 if J12 on the ABX-X178 assembly.
> If the voltage is less that 70 volts, check D22 and R40 on ABX-X178.
>
> If the voltage is less than 69 volts but greater than 5 volts, a transmit
> PIN diode is bad.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 3:59 PM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
>> **
>>
>>
>> Hello Glenn,
>>
>> is the process for troubleshooting the fault 8 the same as fault 9?
>>
>> tnx, 73s Tadej S52X
>>
>>
>> 2012/11/5 Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>
>>

>>>
>>> Hello Walter,
>>>
>>> Below are the ETO/Alpha instructions for troubleshooting Fault 9. I
>>> think there are a few steps you have not completed yet. Please go through
>>> the list and then contact us via www.rfconcepts.com if you need parts
>>> or further help.
>>>
>>> Glenn AE0Q
>>>
>>>
>>> On Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 1:20 PM, <dk1bn@...> wrote:
>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Hello all,
>>>>
>>>> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax
>>>> tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward
>>>> current below min required value to key down).
>>>>
>>>
>>> Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually
>>> caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.
>>>
>>> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
>>> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
>>> "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the
>>> chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads
>>> of the diode.
>>>
>>> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
>>> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
>>> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
>>> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
>>> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
>>> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
>>> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
>>> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>>>
>>>
>>> With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the
>>> resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short.
>>> If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the
>>> two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small
>>> blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little
>>> circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it
>>> should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is
>>> something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also
>>> Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the

>>> chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the safety
>>> Choke board.
>>>
>>> Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw
>>> of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.
>>>
>>> Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is
>>> 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!
>>>
>>> 1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on
>>> The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts
>>> when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First
>>> remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety
>>> Choke
>>> Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above
>>> -89vdc) there
>>> is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module).
>>> Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.
>>>
>>> 2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power
>>> Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This
>>> can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option
>>> go to step 3.
>>>
>>> 3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v
>>> there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad,
>>> problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if
>>> voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted
>>> Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned
>>> on/off by the +/-30v.
>>>
>>> 4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be
>>> +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.
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>>> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
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>>> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
>>> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
>>> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your
>>> meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts
>>> range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>>>
>>> The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with
>>> one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it,
>>> they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses

>>> a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.
>>>
>>> There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be
>>> checked if the other 4 are OK.
>>>
>>>
>>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1185. Low Power operation with 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-08 02:10:38 UTC
From: Mark n2qt
Topic: 1185 Message: 1185

Well I know this is counter to most everything we normally do, but I'm planning to use my 87A to follow my KX3 (qrp rig) to get 100 watts out.

I don’t see much in the manual about the LO setting, but figure for this use it would be appropriate. I've manually tuned for max output for the band segments I'll use. (AlphaMax doesn't have enough to tune with). The amp does auto band no problem with the 5 W it takes to get to 100W.

Is there anything I should be concerned with, or do differently? (It is really strange seeing so few LEDs light up).

Mark n2qt

1186. RE: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-08 02:59:36 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1185 Message: 1186
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hi Mark,

I have been doing this for years, running 75-100W from the 87A for PSK in contests rather than cooking my IC-7000 for long hours. PSK is supposed to be QRP but in those crazy contests with my vertical sending the signal mostly in the wrong direction, it has been the only way for me to get anywhere. Never had a problem and don’t see why there should be but I am open to criticism hi

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mark n2qt
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 9:11 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Well I know this is counter to most everything we normally do,
but I'm planning to use my 87A to follow my KX3 (qrp rig) to
get 100 watts out.

I don’t see much in the manual about the LO setting, but
figure for this use it would be appropriate. I've manually tuned
for max output for the band segments I'll use. (AlphaMax doesn't
have enough to tune with). The amp does auto band no problem
with the 5 W it takes to get to 100W.

Is there anything I should be concerned with, or do differently?
(It is really strange seeing so few LEDs light up).

Mark n2qt

1187. Re: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-08 03:12:20 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1185 Message: 1187

Thanks Jerry , looking for the right cords for the 87a and flex 1500
On 11/7/2012 9:59 PM, Jerry wrote:
>
> Hi Mark,
>
> I have been doing this for years, running 75-100W from the 87A for PSK
> in contests rather than cooking my IC-7000 for long hours. PSK is
> supposed to be QRP but in those crazy contests with my vertical
> sending the signal mostly in the wrong direction, it has been the only
> way for me to get anywhere.Never had a problem and don’t see why there
> should be but I am open to criticism hi
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> K1JOS
>
> *From:*Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Mark n2qt
> *Sent:* Wednesday, November 07, 2012 9:11 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A
>
>
> Well I know this is counter to most everything we normally do,
> but I'm planning to use my 87A to follow my KX3 (qrp rig) to
> get 100 watts out.
>
> I don’t see much in the manual about the LO setting, but
> figure for this use it would be appropriate. I've manually tuned
> for max output for the band segments I'll use. (AlphaMax doesn't
> have enough to tune with). The amp does auto band no problem
> with the 5 W it takes to get to 100W.
>
> Is there anything I should be concerned with, or do differently?
> (It is really strange seeing so few LEDs light up).
>
> Mark n2qt
>
>

1188. Re: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-08 13:30:16 UTC
From: Mark n2qt
Topic: 1185 Message: 1188

Just a warning, it is possible to fault the 87A when turning at low power, looks like it is possible to confuse the poor thing if it particularly badly tuned. Not a big deal but concerned me the first time it happened.

I am using this for the WAE RTTY contest, so no qsk or anything clever.

Mark n2qt
we4m

From: John Molenda
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 10:12 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Thanks Jerry , looking for the right cords for the 87a and flex 1500

On 11/7/2012 9:59 PM, Jerry wrote:

Hi Mark,

I have been doing this for years, running 75-100W from the 87A for PSK in contests rather than cooking my IC-7000 for long hours. PSK is supposed to be QRP but in those crazy contests with my vertical sending the signal mostly in the wrong direction, it has been the only way for me to get anywhere. Never had a problem and don’t see why there should be but I am open to criticism hi

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mark n2qt
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 9:11 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Low Power operation with 87A

Well I know this is counter to most everything we normally do,
but I'm planning to use my 87A to follow my KX3 (qrp rig) to
get 100 watts out.

I don’t see much in the manual about the LO setting, but
figure for this use it would be appropriate. I've manually tuned
for max output for the band segments I'll use. (AlphaMax doesn't
have enough to tune with). The amp does auto band no problem
with the 5 W it takes to get to 100W.

Is there anything I should be concerned with, or do differently?
(It is really strange seeing so few LEDs light up).

Mark n2qt

1189. Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-09 23:11:21 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 645 Message: 1189

Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?

On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing? It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned nominally until now.

1897:
Radio has no future.
--Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society

Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1190. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-09 23:16:32 UTC
From: Jerry Stern
Topic: 645 Message: 1190

Does this happen into a dummy load or your antenna?
73 Jerry
K1JOS

--- On Fri, 11/9/12, Larry <larry@...> wrote:

From: Larry <larry@kj6yvt.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Friday, November 9, 2012, 6:11 PM

Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?

On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?
It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
nominally until now.

1897:
Radio has no future.
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Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1191. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-09 23:39:19 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 645 Message: 1191

Have you monitored the input SWR of amp while driving it on 10m? Is it changing as the transmission goes on?

If it is high or changing I can send instructions for adjusting it via a PC connected to the serial port of 87A.

Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 4:11 PM, Larry <larry@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>
> On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
> ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
> 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
> level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?
> It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
> nominally until now.
>
>

1192. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-09 23:51:32 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 645 Message: 1192

Have you checked to make sure that your exciter output remains constant throughout the power ramp up? How long does it take to go from 300 to 1500 watts output, and what is the power input to the amplifier during that time?

73, Kirk K4RO

On 11/9/2012 5:11 PM, Larry wrote:
>
> Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>
> On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
> ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
> 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
> level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?
> It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
> nominally until now.

1193. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-11 15:21:13 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 645 Message: 1193

Jerry,

Thank you for your response.

It's into the parallel dipole:
<http://kj6yvt.com/parallel_dipole.htm>.

On Fri, 9 Nov 2012 15:16:32 -0800 (PST), Jerry Stern
<jsternmd@...> wrote in
<1352502992.26100.YahooMailClassic@...>:

>Does this happen into a dummy load or your antenna?
>73 Jerry
>K1JOS
>
>--- On Fri, 11/9/12, Larry <larry@kj6yvt.com> wrote:
>
>
>From: Larry <larry@...>
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Date: Friday, November 9, 2012, 6:11 PM
>
>
>Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>
>On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
>~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
>1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
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>Radio has no future.
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>
>Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com
>

1194. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-11 15:39:49 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 645 Message: 1194

Hello Glen,

Yes. The input and output SWR are roughly equal between 1.5:1 - 1.7:1 depending on modulation.

Today the behavior is a little different; the exciter power (an IC-7800) did not increase so significantly as before. Complicating my assessment is TRX-Manager reporting that the transceiver is set to deliver >100W (which agrees with the power knob position is at 12-O' Clock) while the meter on the transceiver shows ~60W out. It's beginning to look like an issue with the transceiver rather than the 87A.

Thank you for offering instructions for adjusting the 87A's input SWR via computer. I'm seeing the transceiver's meter showing between 0 and 1.6 SWR depending on modulation fluctuations (transceiver tuner enabled).

Is there a document available that provides all the 87A RS-232 commands? That would be interesting in its own right.

Thank you Glen.

On Fri, 9 Nov 2012 16:39:19 -0700, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote in
<CAJAc95a58Hqdn3F+rj2Vnzp_BCCyuccysV=BGYULs-PWhtNDrg@...>:

>Have you monitored the input SWR of amp while driving it on 10m? Is it
>changing as the transmission goes on?
>
>If it is high or changing I can send instructions for adjusting it via a PC
>connected to the serial port of 87A.
>
>Glenn AE0Q
>
>
>On Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 4:11 PM, Larry <larry@...> wrote:
>
>> **
>>
>>
>> Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>>
>> On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
>> ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
>> 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
>> level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?

>> It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
>> nominally until now.
>>
>>

1195. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-12 14:33:07 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 645 Message: 1195

Hello Kirk,

I haven't been able to monitor the power ramp-up, but I have discovered a discrepancy between the knob setting (~118W) and the power output (60W) as indicated on the IC-7800's meter. So something seems wrong there.

Although the increase in power still occurs (in about 15 seconds), it is less pronounced now.

Let me observe it for a day or two, and see if I can get a better handle on exactly what the readings are on the IC-7800, LP-100A, and 87A. At this point I'm a bit concerned with the high power knob setting and low power output.

Glen has kindly informed me that I should not have the IC-7800's auto-tuner enabled when operating the 87A. I hope I haven't caused any damage.

Thanks for your support.

On Fri, 09 Nov 2012 17:51:32 -0600, K4RO Kirk Pickering
<k4ro@...> wrote in <509D9704.1080902@...>:

>Have you checked to make sure that your exciter output remains constant
>throughout the power ramp up? How long does it take to go from 300 to
>1500 watts output, and what is the power input to the amplifier during
>that time?
>
>73, Kirk K4RO
>
>
>On 11/9/2012 5:11 PM, Larry wrote:
>>
>> Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>>
>> On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
>> ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
>> 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
>> level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?
>> It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
>> nominally until now.
>
>
>------------------------------------
>
>Yahoo! Groups Links

>
>
>

1196. Re: Fault 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-12 16:55:17 UTC
From: dk1bn@amsat.org
Topic: 645 Message: 1196

We solved the problem. After a lot measuring and checking we detected that the T_Bias voltage (+30V/-30V) was not stable at the TX PIN diodes . We could only detect this with a scope because after keydown (w/o RF) we saw immediately "Fault 9" and the amp went back to receive. We did remove the output T/R board and detected that L1 was almost open(high resistance). We could not see any damage from the top. But below L1 we saw that were "traces of an arc burn" (dont know the exact expression in engl.). It was only at the hot end and so we removed L1 and cleaned the pcb (used some epoxy material for isolation) we did not rewind the choke but lost half a turn. There are about 30 turns on the ferrite core now 29 and a half are left :-).

After reassembly of the amp and carefully checking we are now ready for the PT0S pile up on our remote station :-).

73
Walter
DK1BN

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, dk1bn@... wrote:
>
> Hello all,
>
> we use our Alpha87A in a remote setup. After a mistuning with alphamax tune on 12m I get now the famous "fault 9"(Transmit PIN diode forward current below min required value to key down). We checked the pin diodes they seem to be ok. No fault at RX only even at first there was "no receive". So we thought that there is a problem with a RX PIN diode (together with the TX PIN diode) or something like that.
> But after some tests with a noise generator we detected that after switching 2 times the "operate/standby" switch that receive came back on and was normal. After key down we got fault 9 - (without any RF). We checked the TX Pin diodes and all voltages.
> T_Bias at "RX" was about +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V, R_Bias ok (at HVPS about 950V) and on TX (fault 9) about +950V, "-109V" = 0V like it should be (I think)
> We disconnected the TX PIN Diodes (at one end end)and with this type of multimeter (DC 2.4V) we measured about 600K in forward and infinite in backward polarity. So there seems to be that the TX Pin diodes are ok. Both had the same values- We made quite a lot of tests even removed the output TRboard and inspected it for bad soldering and soldered some pins which could be bad.
> But nevertheless we still get "fault 9". Next step will be to measure the T_Bias on "key down"(no RF) with a scope and see if we really see -30V on T_Bias (cathode of TX PIN diode). The RX PIN diodes (also the PIN diode at the input) seem to be ok. But these RX PIN diodes we did only check with the "diode check" of the multimeter although we could hear the blocking of the RX path etc.during key down.
> Just to make the function clear. On RX state we should have T_Bias +30V, R_Bias 0V, "-109V" about -91V and on TX (key down) state T_Bias -30V, R_Bias +950V,"-109V" 0V. Is this correct?
>
>

> What voltage is monitored by the AD of the uC for the fault - only PINS_OK?
>
> Any idea whats going on before we buy new PIN diodes and change them (quite an expensive job)? :-(.
>
> I did read almost every post in the group concerning PIN diode faults.
>
>
>
> 73
> Walter
> DK1BN
>

1197. Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 16:41:00 UTC
From: Jim
Topic: 948 Message: 1197

I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?

Jim WA2MBP

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tadej" <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
>
> http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>

1198. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 17:58:04 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 948 Message: 1198

I downloaded the current version and installed it on my Windows 7/64. I'm using a COM port on an Edgeport/4 USB/serial box, and it works fine. The only configuration setting I made was to select the COM port.

I don't operate remotely and prefer HB9ZS' 87A program, as it gets the frequency from my logging program, either DXLab's Commander or N1MM so the 87A can preset the tuning without transmitting.

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

73, Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?

Jim WA2MBP

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> I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
>
> http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
>
> 73s Tadej S52X

1199. Re: [Alpha87a] Excessive excitation power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 21:24:21 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 645 Message: 1199

I'm still having difficulty operating on 10 meters with the Alpha 87A (AlphaMax enabled, IC-7800 internal tuner off).

Today, with very little drive (15 watts) transmitting on 28.416 MHz resulted in the 87A going into fault mode:

Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.

Subsequently operating on 15 meters worked nominally with high power and no faults.

Returning back to 15 meters again, and monitoring the SWR the IC-7800 was seeing, it approached 2:1 on peaks. The LP-100A wattmeter indicated a 1.01:1 SWR at the Alpha 87A output. The funny thing is that I was able to operate nominally on 10 meters after having operated on 15 meters.

I am also able to operate at 163 watts on 10 meters with the 87A in standby mode.

Alpha 87A Remote Control <http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/> does indicate the following history of amplifier faults:

Last 8 logged Alpha soft faults:
Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.
Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.
Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.
Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
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Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.
Soft fault 17: Abnormally low or high amplifier power gain.
Usually due to extreme mis-tuning or possibly an RF arc.

Last 8 logged Alpha hard faults:
Hard fault 24: System voltage fault. High voltage, +/-15 volts, or 109 volts below safe operating level.
Hard fault 24: System voltage fault. High voltage, +/-15 volts, or 109 volts below safe operating level.
Hard fault 24: System voltage fault. High voltage, +/-15 volts, or 109 volts below safe operating level.

Hard fault 24: System voltage fault. High voltage, +/-15 volts, or
109 volts below safe operating level.
Control system fault 37: bandswitch not moving.
Control system fault 37: bandswitch not moving.
Control system fault 37: bandswitch not moving.

Unfortunately, there is no date/time of when these faults occurred.

Any clues as to the cause of my difficulties?

TNX

On Fri, 9 Nov 2012 16:39:19 -0700, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote
in
<CAJAc95a58Hqdn3F+rj2Vnzp_BCCyuccysV=BGYULs-PWhtNDrg@...>:

>Have you monitored the input SWR of amp while driving it on 10m? Is it
>changing as the transmission goes on?
>
>If it is high or changing I can send instructions for adjusting it via a PC
>connected to the serial port of 87A.
>
>Glenn AE0Q
>
>
>On Fri, Nov 9, 2012 at 4:11 PM, Larry <larry@...> wrote:
>
>> **
>>
>>
>> Does anyone have any idea what's going on with my 87A?
>>
>> On 10 meters, initially it requires in excess of 100W drive to provide
>> ~300W out, and then as the QSO proceeds, the power increases to about
>> 1500W, and I need to reduce the exciter power to a more reasonable
>> level. Could this be symptomatic of an electrolytic issue developing?
>> It doesn't seem to occur on other bands. It always functioned
>> nominally until now.
>>
>>

1200. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 21:53:17 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 948 Message: 1200

Jim,

DF3CB's Alpha 87A Remote Control program Version 2.0.0 runs as expected on my Windows 7 (64-bit) Professional system without any issues at all.

Have you gone into Windows Device Manager (Start, Right-Click Computer, select Manage, Click Device Manager) and set the baud rate and other RS-232 parameters (Open Ports, Right-click the com port you have connected to the 87A, and select Properties) to match the 87A?

However, if you can successfully run AlphaRemote, that's probably not the cause of your issue. But worth a try ...

Larry

On Thu, 22 Nov 2012 16:41:00 -0000, "Jim" <james.nail@...> wrote in <k8lkis+7iov@...>:

>I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?
>
>Jim WA2MBP
>
>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tadej" <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>>
>> I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
>>
>> http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
>>
>> 73s Tadej S52X
>>

1201. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 22:04:22 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1201

Yes done all that in device manager. 4800 n 8 1 and tried all 3 flow control options. Uninstalled , deleted folder, re installed. Baffled.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: Larry <larry@kj6yvt.com>
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 22 Nov 2012 13:53:17
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Jim,

DF3CB's Alpha 87A Remote Control program Version 2.0.0 runs as expected on my Windows 7 (64-bit) Professional system without any issues at all.

Have you gone into Windows Device Manager (Start, Right-Click Computer, select Manage, Click Device Manager) and set the baud rate and other RS-232 parameters (Open Ports, Right-click the com port you have connected to the 87A, and select Properties) to match the 87A?

However, if you can successfully run AlphaRemote, that's probably not the cause of your issue. But worth a try ...

Larry

On Thu, 22 Nov 2012 16:41:00 -0000, "Jim" <james.nail@att.net> wrote in <k8lkis+7iov@eGroups.com>:

>I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?
>
>Jim WA2MBP
>
>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tadej" <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>>
>> I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
>>
>> http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
>>

```
>> 73s Tadej S52X
>>
```

1202. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-22 23:24:37 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 948 Message: 1202

If you can talk to the 78A with HyperTerminal, this probably won't help, but if not...:

http://asktheham.com/node/47
Alpha 87A Communications
published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:01
Forums:

Alpha 87A Entries

Please unplug the 87A for 1 minute and then plug it back in to the 240v. This will reset the microprocessor and can sometimes correct erratic operation (possibly caused by stray RF), although it will NOT clear hard faults or remove them from the fault log.

The 87A should 'talk' to the PC anytime it is plugged into mains power, even when it is turned off. This is the best troubleshooting tool that we have. Note that the 20A fuses must be good.

Below are some notes about the 87A fault protection.

Please remember that when the 87A gets a hard fault and then the power is turned back on, it will report the fault for 30 seconds and then clear automatically. You must not turn off the power before the fault clears (about 30 seconds), or it will log another hard fault the next time the power is turned on. Also remember that six of the SAME hard fault shutdowns over ANY period of time (with no other kind of Hard fault) will then put the 87A in Fault 99 which locks it up. This function was put in the amplifier to prevent any further damage if operation was attempted after a failure had occurred.

If you keep turning off the power before a hard fault has cleared, and this causes 6 of the same hard faults to be entered in the fault log, the 87A will then go into Fault 99 and will not turn on. Also, if the 87A is turned on 6 times when it keeps shutting down immediately because of a hard fault, it will go into Fault 99.

Once the 87A is in Fault 99 condition, each time the ON switch is pressed it logs another Fault 99. After 8 times, the original hard fault will have been shifted out of the fault log, it will only show 99 and not the fault that caused the original problem.

Here are instructions for setting up HyperTerm that is built into Win 95/98 for the communications.

To find out what the status of the amplifier is, you need to use a modem communications program. Windows 95/98 comes with one called

HyperTerminal. It is usually located in the ACCESSORIES program group. On Win98 it may not have been installed as the default and you can install it by inserting the Win98 CD and selecting it in the "Add Programs, Communications" menu.

When you click on HyperTerminal from the START, PROGRAMS, ACCESSORIES menu it will open a program group on the screen.

Click on HYPERTRM.EXE and it will open a window for a new connection. Give it a name, and in the next window select the "Connect Using: Direct to COMx" pulldown menu (in the bottom of the box on my version of Win95); select the Com port you will use. This is the same one that you were using with the AlphaRemote software. If the COM port you select is available it will open another box called "COMx Properties". Going down the list, select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE. Click OK to close the window. Now pull down the FILE menu and click PROPERTIES. Click the SETTING tab and then click ASCII SETUP at the bottom of the window.
Click the box for "Echo typed characters locally" (it could have a check in the box). Click OK to close both windows.

Plug in the amp (power off) and it should be communicating with the computer. Type VER and press the Enter key. The 87A should respondwith the firmware version number.

ATTENTION ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you see garble (or nothing) you will need to remove pin 22 of the 25-pin end of the cable (the 87A end). It is used to set the baudrate of the amplifier. Page 19 of the 87A manual has a complete explanation of the communications connections.

When it is communicating OK, type SF and HF to display the Soft Fault and Hard Fault logs (press Enter key after each command). Save the result of those commands.

A list of more commands is on pages 20 and 21 of the 87A manual (pages 40 and 41 in 87A Manual Rev 1.0)

On Thu, 22 Nov 2012 22:04:22 +0000, james.nail@... wrote in
<1588416315-1353621859-cardhu_decombobulator_blackberry.rim.net-386545055-@...>:

>Yes done all that in device manager. 4800 n 8 1 and tried all 3 flow control options.
Uninstalled , deleted folder, re installed. Baffled.
>
>Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T
>
>-----Original Message-----
>From: Larry <larry@...>
>Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Date: Thu, 22 Nov 2012 13:53:17
>To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

>Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software
>
>
>Jim,
>
>DF3CB's Alpha 87A Remote Control program Version 2.0.0 runs as
>expected on my Windows 7 (64-bit) Professional system without any
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>Have you gone into Windows Device Manager (Start, Right-Click
>Computer, select Manage, Click Device Manager) and set the baud rate
>and other RS-232 parameters (Open Ports, Right-click the com port you
>have connected to the 87A, and select Properties) to match the 87A?
>
>However, if you can successfully run AlphaRemote, that's probably not
>the cause of your issue. But worth a try ...
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>Larry
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>
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>On Thu, 22 Nov 2012 16:41:00 -0000, "Jim" <james.nail@...> wrote
>in <k8lkis+7iov@...>:
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>>I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect
using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the
AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at
4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but
nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's
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>>Jim WA2MBP
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>>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tadej" <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
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>>>
>>> http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
>>>
>>> 73s Tadej S52X
>>>

1203. TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 02:09:28 UTC
From: jsternmd@att.net
Topic: 1203 Message: 1203

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1204. Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 13:46:28 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1203 Message: 1204

Jerry,

Nice find. That appears to be a more robust version of the MA4P4006D/UM4006D and as you point out, a higher breakdown voltage rating (Vbr 2KV versus 600V). Carrier lifetime and bias/forward resistance curves are nearly identical between from the M/A-COM data sheets. I just purchased a pair to have on hand for my 87A.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: jsternmd@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1205. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 15:01:52 UTC
From: James Nail
Topic: 1203 Message: 1205

They are all SOLD now from what I can see!

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 08:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Jerry,

Nice find. That appears to be a more robust version of the MA4P4006D/UM4006D and as you point out, a higher breakdown voltage rating (Vbr 2KV versus 600V). Carrier lifetime and bias/forward resistance curves are nearly identical between from the M/A-COM data sheets. I just purchased a pair to have on hand for my 87A.

Paul, W9AC

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From: jsternmd@...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1206. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 15:28:16 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 1203 Message: 1206

Richardson has these in stock at $66 each...
https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=1983

73 Rich N7TR

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Nail
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 7:02 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

They are all SOLD now from what I can see!

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
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Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: jsternmd@att.net<mailto:jsternmd@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1207. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 16:05:59 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1203 Message: 1207
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

This pin diode has only one solder tab on the cathode end so another tab would need to be soldered to the anode. Has anyone compared the physical sizes to see if there would be any problem fitting it to the PCB?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rich Hallman - N7TR
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Richardson has these in stock at $66 each.
https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=1983

73 Rich N7TR

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Nail
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 7:02 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

They are all SOLD now from what I can see!

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 08:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Jerry,

Nice find. That appears to be a more robust version of the MA4P4006D/UM4006D and as you point out, a higher breakdown voltage rating (Vbr 2KV versus 600V). Carrier lifetime and bias/forward resistance curves are nearly identical between from the M/A-COM data sheets. I just purchased a pair to have on hand for my 87A.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: jsternmd@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1208. Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 16:51:15 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1203 Message: 1208

Jerry,

Mounting compatibility could be an issue until someone tries. The lack of a top solder tab isn't a problem but the UM4006D diameter is 0.187" hex, while the MA4PK2003 has a 0.245" barreled body and that may not pass through the opening. Also, there's a difference in the stud thread size. The UM4006D uses a standard #4-40 thread, but the MA4PK has a relatively odd #6-40 thread according to the data sheet. That may be an even bigger issue since the Alpha mounting hole size is probably 4-40 and no larger. I would not want to take a drill the 87A unless it was the option of last resort.

Well, if they don't work in the 87A, I can use them elsewhere.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Jerry
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 11:05 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

This pin diode has only one solder tab on the cathode end so another tab would need to be soldered to the anode. Has anyone compared the physical sizes to see if there would be any problem fitting it to the PCB?

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rich Hallman - N7TR
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Richardson has these in stock at $66 each.

https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=1983

73 Rich N7TR

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Nail
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 7:02 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

They are all SOLD now from what I can see!

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 08:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Jerry,

Nice find. That appears to be a more robust version of the MA4P4006D/UM4006D and as you point out, a higher breakdown voltage rating (Vbr 2KV versus 600V). Carrier lifetime and bias/forward resistance curves are nearly identical between from the M/A-COM data sheets. I just purchased a pair to have on hand for my 87A.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----

From: jsternmd@att.net

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM

Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1209. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-24 17:28:07 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1203 Message: 1209
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

HI Paul

I have to plead ignorance as I have not scrutinized this part of the 87A specifically when I serviced it in the past. I assumed, perhaps incorrectly, that the UM4006D with its anode and cathode tabs used the stud for heat dissipation not grounding so I don't think enlarging the PCB if needed will be a problem. I recall someone posted close-ups of the TX pin diode on the board in the past. I will do a search.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Jerry,

Mounting compatibility could be an issue until someone tries. The lack of a top solder tab isn't a problem but the UM4006D diameter is 0.187" hex, while the MA4PK2003 has a 0.245" barreled body and that may not pass through the opening. Also, there's a difference in the stud thread size. The UM4006D uses a standard #4-40 thread, but the MA4PK has a relatively odd #6-40 thread according to the data sheet. That may be an even bigger issue since the Alpha mounting hole size is probably 4-40 and no larger. I would not want to take a drill the 87A unless it was the option of last resort.

Well, if they don't work in the 87A, I can use them elsewhere.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Jerry <mailto:jsternmd@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 11:05 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

This pin diode has only one solder tab on the cathode end so another tab would need to be soldered to the anode. Has anyone compared the physical sizes to see if there would be any problem fitting it to the PCB?
73 Jerry
K1JOS
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Sent: Saturday, November 24, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Richardson has these in stock at $66 each.
https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=1983
73 Rich N7TR
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Nail
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They are all SOLD now from what I can see!

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Jerry,
Nice find. That appears to be a more robust version of the MA4P4006D/UM4006D and as you point out, a higher breakdown voltage rating (Vbr 2KV versus 600V). Carrier lifetime and bias/forward resistance curves are nearly identical between from the M/A-COM data sheets. I just purchased a pair to have on hand for my 87A.
Paul, W9AC
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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 9:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode Replacement -- MA4PK2003

Is this a good TX pin diode replacement? It is on Ebay now at a reasonable price. It has the stud and solder lugs like the UM4006D or UM2006D and higher reverse voltage and power dissipation.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1210. Alpha 87A for sale for parts

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-11-29 02:44:35 UTC
From: n6mty
Topic: 1210 Message: 1210

Ebay has an 87A for sale for parts

1211. Alpha 87a serial number

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 00:15:28 UTC
From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com
Topic: 1211 Message: 1211

My Alpha 87A serial number is 87151041. What is the year of manufacture?

1212. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a serial number

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 02:23:19 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1211 Message: 1212

For a few years before the 10 digit serial number was used, the 8 digit serial number means this:

8 = 1998
7 = 87A (if a 9 it would be an 89)
15 = week of manufacture in that year
1041 = number of the amp in the progression of all 87A amps built

73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 6:15 PM, <goofyham@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> My Alpha 87A serial number is 87151041. What is the year of manufacture?
>
> --
>

1213. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a serial number

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 02:52:29 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 1211 Message: 1213

I thought the 8 digit serials were in the format:

XX = year
XX = week
XXXX = serial

If that is wrong when was 87A serial number 91230113 made?

Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----
From: Glenn AE0Q
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 6:23 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a serial number

For a few years before the 10 digit serial number was used, the 8 digit serial number means this:

8 = 1998
7 = 87A (if a 9 it would be an 89)
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73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 6:15 PM, <goofyham@...> wrote:

My Alpha 87A serial number is 87151041. What is the year of manufacture?

--

1214. Re: Serial No.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 13:38:46 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1214 Message: 1214

The early 87A amps (made by ETO) used a straight date-code type of serial number.

91 = year
22 = week
0082 = 82nd 87A built

When ETO split off the ham amps and Alpha Power was the name of the company (around 1996) they changed to the one-digit-year, one-digit-model numbers.

Glenn AE0Q

>
> I saw your post to the group but don't understand. My 87A is 91220082.
> I recall delivery was in 1990--but what does the 1 mean?
>

1215. Alpha 87A computer program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 14:37:30 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1215 Message: 1215

Anyone have any luck getting DF3CB's Alpha 87A computer program connecting to their Alpha?

I can connect to tha amp using Alpha's small program and control the Alpha 87A fine but DF3CB's program runs (paints the screen with a 87A face plate) but does not connect to the Alpha.

I'm using the same Com port as Alpha's program and the program paints the Alpha's face plate fine but no activity?

I disconnect the small Alpha program that does run fine before I invoke DF3CB's program.

I'm running Windows 8.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Robert Dorchuck
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 9:52 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a serial number

I thought the 8 digit serials were in the format:

XX = year

XX = week

XXXX = serial

If that is wrong when was 87A serial number 91230113 made?

Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----

From: Glenn AE0Q <mailto:gm5bkc@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Monday, December 17, 2012 6:23 PM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a serial number

For a few years before the 10 digit serial number was used, the 8 digit serial number means this:

8 = 1998
7 = 87A (if a 9 it would be an 89)
15 = week of manufacture in that year
1041 = number of the amp in the progression of all 87A amps built

73 - Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Mon, Dec 17, 2012 at 6:15 PM, <goofyham@...> wrote:

My Alpha 87A serial number is 87151041. What is the year of manufacture?

--

1216. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A computer program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-18 18:05:04 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1215 Message: 1216

I have gotten it to run with my Windows 7/64 without doing anything special.
I do like HB9ZS' program better.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of George
Sent: December 18, 2012 08:38
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A computer program

Anyone have any luck getting DF3CB's Alpha 87A computer program connecting
to their Alpha?

I can connect to tha amp using Alpha's small program and control the Alpha
87A fine but DF3CB's program runs (paints the screen with a 87A face plate)
but does not connect to the Alpha.

I'm using the same Com port as Alpha's program and the program paints the
Alpha's face plate fine but no activity?

I disconnect the small Alpha program that does run fine before I invoke
DF3CB's program.

I'm running Windows 8.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

1217. Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-28 05:21:36 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 1217 Message: 1217

Thought I would check here if anyone is looking to sell their Alpha 77D or SX?

Thanks..
Rich

Rich N7TR
ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
www.n7tr.com<http://www.n7tr.com>
http://www.qrz.com/db/N7TR
Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

1218. Re: [Alpha87a] Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-28 13:24:59 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1217 Message: 1218

Rich try Jim Morgan.
Name: Jim Morgan
Callsign: W8JMM
E-mail: jm24u@...

    Paul w8jn

Quantum materiae materietur marmota monax
si marmota monax materiam possit materiari?

From: Rich Hallman - N7TR <rich@...>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:21 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Thought I would check here if anyone is looking to sell their Alpha 77D or SX?

Thanks..
Rich

Rich N7TR
ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
www.n7tr.com
http://www.qrz.com/db/N7TR
Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com N7TR DXCluster

1219. RE: [Alpha87a] Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2012-12-29 01:58:25 UTC
From: Rich Hallman - N7TR
Topic: 1217 Message: 1219

Just sent him an email….Thanks..

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of paul glassman
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 5:25 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Rich try Jim Morgan.
Name: Jim Morgan
Callsign: W8JMM
E-mail: jm24u@aol.com<mailto:jm24u@aol.com>
Paul w8jn

Quantum materiae materietur marmota monax
si marmota monax materiam possit materiari?

From: Rich Hallman - N7TR <rich@n7tr.com<mailto:rich@n7tr.com>>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 12:21 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Looking for a Alpha 77D or SX

Thought I would check here if anyone is looking to sell their Alpha 77D or SX?

Thanks..
Rich

Rich N7TR
ex KI3V, N3AMK, WB3JOV
www.n7tr.com<http://www.n7tr.com/>
http://www.qrz.com/db/N7TR
Telnet: dxc.n7tr.com<http://dxc.n7tr.com/> N7TR DXCluster

1220. tube GU74 in 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-02 15:33:55 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1220 Message: 1220

Does anyone know if the Russian GU74B tube work in the Alpha 87A amp?
I see they are much less expensive than the Eimac but have a higher filament current draw.
Will they work in the Alpha 87A?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1221. Re: tube GU74 in 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-02 19:59:19 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1220 Message: 1221

The GU74b is a 4CX800 (tetrode), not a 3CX800 (triode). It would be impossible to get one to work in the 87A.

At Alpha we did evaluate some Svetlana 3CX800 tubes a number of years ago but they had high grid current and low gain, compared to the Eimac 3CX800 that the 87A was designed to use. The 87A would not work with the Russian tubes, the fault protection limits were exceeded or at the edge in a number of parameters..

Glenn AE0Q

1222. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: tube GU74 in 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-02 20:17:13 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1220 Message: 1222

Glen;

DUH, I noted that the GU74B was a tetrode after I sent the question. I should have known better!

Oh, by the way, thanks for the answer.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: tube GU74 in 87A

The GU74b is a 4CX800 (tetrode), not a 3CX800 (triode). It would be impossible to get one to work in the 87A.

At Alpha we did evaluate some Svetlana 3CX800 tubes a number of years ago but they had high grid current and low gain, compared to the Eimac 3CX800 that the 87A was designed to use. The 87A would not work with the Russian tubes, the fault protection limits were exceeded or at the edge in a number of parameters..

Glenn AE0Q

1223. Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-03 21:28:32 UTC
From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com
Topic: 948 Message: 1223

Same here Jim. The RF concepts and Alpha Communications 5.03 work fine but DF3CB comes up on my screen but that's all? I can't do anything. It looks nice though but no control. I gave up.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jim" wrote:
>
> I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?
>
> Jim WA2MBP
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Tadej" wrote:
> >
> > I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
> >
> > http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
> >
> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1224. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-03 21:41:09 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1224

My issue turned out to be handshaking. The alpha and com port must both have the same method. Mine works perfect after I figured that out.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Same here Jim. The RF concepts and Alpha Communications 5.03 work fine but DF3CB comes up on my screen but that's all? I can't do anything. It looks nice though but no control. I gave up.

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> > http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
> >
> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1225. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-03 23:59:05 UTC
From: George
Topic: 948 Message: 1225

Jim;

What did you do to correct the handshaking?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

My issue turned out to be handshaking. The alpha and com port must both have the same method. Mine works perfect after I figured that out.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: goofyham@...

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

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> >
>

1226. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 00:03:47 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1226

Just make them the Same HW or SW or xon/xoff. As long as amp and com port settings are equal. I think mine are HW.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: "George" <goofyham@rochester.rr.com>
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Jim;

What did you do to correct the handshaking?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@att.net
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1227. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 00:06:16 UTC
From: George
Topic: 948 Message: 1227

OK but I can never remember adjusting the settings of the com ports in the device manager. Is that where you changed the settings?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Just make them the Same HW or SW or xon/xoff. As long as amp and com port settings are equal. I think mine are HW.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: "George" <goofyham@...>

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Jim;

What did you do to correct the handshaking?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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> >
> > http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
> >
> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1228. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 00:12:38 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1228

Yes in device manager. I have XP os so maybe same place or different depending on os.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: "George" <goofyham@rochester.rr.com>
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 19:06:16
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

OK but I can never remember adjusting the settings of the com ports in the
device manager. Is that where you changed the settings?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of james.nail@att.net
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Just make them the Same HW or SW or xon/xoff. As long as amp and com port
settings are equal. I think mine are HW.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: "George" <goofyham@rochester.rr.com>

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Jim;

What did you do to correct the handshaking?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of james.nail@att.net

Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

My issue turned out to be handshaking. The alpha and com port must both have the same method. Mine works perfect after I figured that out.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Same here Jim. The RF concepts and Alpha Communications 5.03 work fine but DF3CB comes up on my screen but that's all? I can't do anything. It looks nice though but no control. I gave up.

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> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1229. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 00:16:07 UTC
From: George
Topic: 948 Message: 1229

I did not change anything and I was able to turn on the 87A with the program but nothing else worked after the warm-up period?

I'll go into device manager and fiddle with those settings.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

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To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

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To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

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Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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> > 73s Tadej S52X
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>

1230. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 00:41:59 UTC
From: George
Topic: 948 Message: 1230

Jim;

What were your settings? Mine are 4800 baud, 500 poll rate, and I'm using Com-4.

I'm running windows-8 but I tried it in the W7 and XP compatibility mode and nothing helped.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:04 PM
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Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 4:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1231. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 01:22:03 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1231

I had same experience until I got the handshaking right. Would only turn on nothing else.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: "George" <goofyham@rochester.rr.com>
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 19:16:07
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

I did not change anything and I was able to turn on the 87A with the program
but nothing else worked after the warm-up period?

I'll go into device manager and fiddle with those settings.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of james.nail@att.net
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 7:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yes in device manager. I have XP os so maybe same place or different
depending on os.

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Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 19:06:16 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

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Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: goofyham@rochester.rr.com

Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Same here Jim. The RF concepts and Alpha Communications 5.03 work fine but DF3CB comes up on my screen but that's all? I can't do anything. It looks nice though but no control. I gave up.

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1232. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 01:30:47 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1232

Those settings are ok. You must use the alpha comm software to set the handshaking on the alpha to match the computer com port handshaking method. Close down the Df3CB application,then start the alpha comm software to begin. Can't recall the handshaking command, but the manual will tell you how to query or set this value.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: "George" <goofyham@rochester.rr.com>
Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 19:41:59
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Reply-To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Jim;

What were your settings? Mine are 4800 baud, 500 poll rate, and I'm using Com-4.

I'm running windows-8 but I tried it in the W7 and XP compatibility mode and nothing helped.

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of james.nail@att.net
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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Date: Thu, 3 Jan 2013 18:59:05 -0500

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

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1233. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 01:32:58 UTC
From: james.nail@att.net
Topic: 948 Message: 1233

By the way I don't use win 8 so I don't know how to check what your com 4 handshaking method is set at.
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

-----Original Message-----
From: james.nail@att.net
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1234. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-04 12:46:37 UTC
From: George
Topic: 948 Message: 1234

It's the same as XP but I don't think that is the problem in my case.

I'll continue using the other 2 programs that work fine.

Thanks for your help.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of james.nail@...
Sent: Thursday, January 03, 2013 8:33 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Sender: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thu, 03 Jan 2013 21:28:32 -0000

To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

ReplyTo: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Another 87a remote control software

Same here Jim. The RF concepts and Alpha Communications 5.03 work fine but DF3CB comes up on my screen but that's all? I can't do anything. It looks nice though but no control. I gave up.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Jim" wrote:
>
> I downloaded the DF3CB Alpha 87A program version 2.0.0 and can not get it to connect using a standard com port. Has anyone else had this problem? I can seccessfully use the AlphaRemote software from RF Concepts and hyper terminal as well using the same com port at 4800 BPS. So why can't the DF3CB Alpha Remote connect? The software says 'COM2 open' but nothing happens when I click on any of the controls. Anyone had success with DF3CB's version 2.0.0 SW?
>
> Jim WA2MBP
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "Tadej" wrote:
> >
> > I have added the link of DF3CB 87a remote software to the group links archive.
> >
> > http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/
> >
> > 73s Tadej S52X
> >
>

1235. FS: Alpha DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-14 03:48:54 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 1235 Message: 1235

Hi Everyone,
I have a pair of brand new Alpha DAS (the digital antenna selector unit). One has the factory box complete with foam inserts. The 2nd one does not have a box but is otherwise complete with all the cables, manual, etc.
Original retail for these was $595 each.
I wound up selling the 87A so that is why I am selling them.
I am asking $275 for the one with the box, and $250 for the one without.

Will make a deal if anyone is interested in both.

If no takers they will be going to eHam and eBay.

73 Darrell AB2E

ab2e@...
Cell: 856-304-3323

1236. Re: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-14 03:56:50 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 1235 Message: 1236

Got any antenna relays to go with the switch?

73,
Dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: AB2E Darrell
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2013 10:48 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Hi Everyone,
I have a pair of brand new Alpha DAS (the digital antenna selector unit). One has the factory box complete with foam inserts. The 2nd one does not have a box but is otherwise complete with all the cables, manual, etc.
Original retail for these was $595 each.
I wound up selling the 87A so that is why I am selling them.
I am asking $275 for the one with the box, and $250 for the one without.

Will make a deal if anyone is interested in both.

If no takers they will be going to eHam and eBay.

73 Darrell AB2E

ab2e@...
Cell: 856-304-3323

1237. RE: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-14 04:09:55 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 1235 Message: 1237

Greetings Dave,
Sorry I don't. I originally had one of these with an 87A back in the mid-90s and I used it then with a DXEngineering remote switch.
The DAS default setup is for 9 antennas.
Ameritron, DXEngineering, and Array Solutions all have switches that will work with the DAS.

73 Darrell AB2E

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: wa3gin@...
Date: Sun, 13 Jan 2013 22:56:50 -0500
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Got any antenna relays to go with the switch?

73,
Dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From:
AB2E Darrell

To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2013 10:48
PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Hi Everyone,
I have a
pair of brand new Alpha DAS (the digital antenna selector unit). One has the factory box complete with foam inserts. The 2nd one does not have a box but is otherwise complete with all the cables, manual, etc.
Original retail for
these was $595 each.
I wound up selling the 87A so that is why I am selling
them.
I am asking $275 for the one with the box, and $250 for the one
without.

Will make a deal if anyone is interested in both.

If no
takers they will be going to eHam and eBay.

73 Darrell
AB2E

ab2e@...
Cell: 856-304-3323

1238. Re: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha DAS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-14 16:26:08 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 1235 Message: 1238

It is e a fun project to construct a remote antenna selector relay box for use with the Alpha DAS. My circuit puts two sets of relay contacts in series to increase isolation, and reduce the likelihood of flash-overs, and is fully protected from transient surges. Antennas are shorted to ground when their relays are not energized. You will find the project documented here:
<http://kj6yvt.com/remote_ant_relays.htm>.

I found that the specified 48 VDC DAS relay control voltage was about actually 31 VDC, so I added a dropping resistor to keep relay coil current within specifications.

You'll also find DAS schematics and video of ETO designer Dick Ehrnorn demonstrating the operation of the DAS here:
<http://kj6yvt.com/remote_antenna_selector.htm>

The Alpha DAS is the perfect solution for integrating automatic antenna selection in computer controlling the KJ6YVT station with TRX-Manager software. When the operator selects a VFO frequency, the IC-7800 selects the mode, preamp, compression, etc. and the Alpha 87A with AlhpaMax automatically selects the antenna it has programmed for that band (and automatically tune itself), and TRX-Manager integrates the transceiver and amplifier and the LP-100A Digital Vector RF Wattmeter, for a station that is always tuned and ready for operation in under one second of transmission.

On Sun, 13 Jan 2013 22:56:50 -0500, "David Jordan"
<wa3gin@...> wrote in
<E9DD475092594511A078D17F3B26FA6F@usercf18>:

>Got any antenna relays to go with the switch?

1239. 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-18 21:07:34 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1239 Message: 1239

I just purchased a brand new (never been opened) 87a and I understand there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I learn about these? Thx NK9N

1240. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-18 21:27:50 UTC
From: Paul Young G0HWC
Topic: 1239 Message: 1240

The main one is the AlphaMax
http://www.rfconcepts.com/Alpha-87a-Parts

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com

From: Jon
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 9:07 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

I just purchased a brand new (never been opened) 87a and I understand there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I learn about these? Thx NK9N

1241. RE: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-18 21:31:43 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1239 Message: 1241

I would ship it to Alpha and have all the updates done so you can run AlphaMax software for computer control. I saw that 87A for sale $4200 was a good price thought about buying it for a spare.

73,

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 3:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

I just purchased a brand new (never been opened) 87a and I understand there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I learn about these? Thx NK9N

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2639/5541 - Release Date: 01/18/13

1242. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-18 21:38:17 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1239 Message: 1242

What's the S/N? It may already be up-to-date if it is a late model.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Fred Smith
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 4:31 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

I would ship it to Alpha and have all the updates done so you can run AlphaMax software for computer control. I saw that 87A for sale $4200 was a good price thought about buying it for a spare.

73,

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 3:08 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87a mod

I just purchased a brand new (never been opened) 87a and I understand there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I learn about these? Thx NK9N

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2639/5541 - Release Date: 01/18/13

1243. 220 service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 14:51:11 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1243 Message: 1243

Im having 220 installed right now. What size do I need? 20 amp?

1244. 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 14:56:36 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1244 Message: 1244

What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?

1245. Re: [Alpha87a] 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 15:06:18 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1244 Message: 1245

Yes 220v 20amp

Sent from my mobile device

On Jan 19, 2013, at 6:56 AM, "Jon" <jon@cumulus.com> wrote:

> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?
>
>

1246. Re: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 15:14:15 UTC
From: David Jordan
Topic: 1243 Message: 1246

If you are having it installed the electrician will answer the question... he'll ask you what the load will be on the line and based on what is the available capacity on your existing breaker panel he'll recommend a amperage. Open your manual to get the Alpha spec but come on... 50% effeciency 1500 watts x 2 = 3000 watts. 3000/115/2 = 13 amps per leg. So, you could go with 230 vac 20amp breaker and run 12 gauge 3+ground or if you think you might run two fulll power stations then go 40 amps. Or you might run 50 or 100 amp service to the room and then install smaller breakers to service the operating position and accessories. Try to think ahead, build for next year, not tomorrow.

Do the math yourself... good for the brain cell !

73,
Dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: Jon
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:51 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Im having 220 installed right now. What size do I need? 20 amp?

1247. Re: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 15:47:49 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1243 Message: 1247

Hi,

consider using 3 phase system instead of higher power single phase electricity system. In 3 phase system, wire the shack/house light on separate phase then amplifier. That way you will avoid annoying light ripple while you are sending CW.

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/19 David Jordan <wa3gin@comcast.net>

> **
>
>
> **
> If you are having it installed the electrician will answer the question...
> he'll ask you what the load will be on the line and based on what is the
> available capacity on your existing breaker panel he'll recommend a
> amperage. Open your manual to get the Alpha spec but come on... 50%
> effeciency 1500 watts x 2 = 3000 watts. 3000/115/2 = 13 amps per leg. So,
> you could go with 230 vac 20amp breaker and run 12 gauge 3+ground or if
> you think you might run two fulll power stations then go 40 amps. Or you
> might run 50 or 100 amp service to the room and then install smaller
> breakers to service the operating position and accessories. Try to think
> ahead, build for next year, not tomorrow.
>
> Do the math yourself... good for the brain cell !
>
> 73,
> Dave
> wa3gin
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Jon <jon@...>
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Sent:* Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:51 AM
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] 220 service
>
>
>
> Im having 220 installed right now. What size do I need? 20 amp?
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1248. RE: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 15:57:05 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1243 Message: 1248

I don't believe the electrical company will supply 3 phase to homes? I may be wrong but I'm almost sure unless you have a need and can substantiate it the electrical company will not supply 3 phase to homes.

I have 20 amp breakers on my 240Vac line feeding my Alpha 87A. My electrical company here in the Buffalo, NY area is NYS electric and gas.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 10:48 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Hi,

consider using 3 phase system instead of higher power single phase electricity system. In 3 phase system, wire the shack/house light on separate phase then amplifier. That way you will avoid annoying light ripple while you are sending CW.

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/19 David Jordan <wa3gin@...>

If you are having it installed the electrician will answer the question... he'll ask you what the load will be on the line and based on what is the available capacity on your existing breaker panel he'll recommend a amperage. Open your manual to get the Alpha spec but come on... 50% effeciency 1500 watts x 2 = 3000 watts. 3000/115/2 = 13 amps per leg. So, you could go with 230 vac 20amp breaker and run 12 gauge 3+ground or if you think you might run two fulll power stations then go 40 amps. Or you might run 50 or 100 amp service to the room and then install smaller breakers to service the operating position and accessories. Try to think ahead, build for next year, not tomorrow.

Do the math yourself... good for the brain cell !

73,
Dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----

From: Jon <mailto:jon@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:51 AM

Subject: [Alpha87a] 220 service

Im having 220 installed right now. What size do I need? 20 amp?

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1249. Re: [Alpha87a] 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 17:21:47 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1244 Message: 1249

Yes !
On 1/19/2013 9:56 AM, Jon wrote:
>
> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?
>
>

1250. Re: [Alpha87a] 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 17:57:14 UTC
From: Michael Young
Topic: 1244 Message: 1250

#12 wire should handle 20amps at 220volts but #10 would be better especially for a long run. I'm faced with the same problem. Picked up a 87A last June… No power, not hooked up yet.

Good Luck,

Mike, WB8CXO
On Jan 19, 2013, at 9:56 AM, Jon <jon@...> wrote:

> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?
>
>

1251. Re: 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 18:27:07 UTC
From: brianmo
Topic: 1244 Message: 1251

Sounds like you need the manual, which is on the rfconcepts web site for download. You could google for it, this link also works:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads

Here's the excerpt from the manual, Page 5.

"AC power Source If you do not have a 220V ac outlet in your shack, you will need to get a licensed electrical contractor to install one. A minimum of a 20-amp capacity is required."

There's a lot of good information in that manual, it's worth a read.
Even if you've owned one for a while, you may find a new technique or mode that you could take advantage of.

-Brian N9ADG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
>
> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?
>

1252. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 21:38:45 UTC
From: Larry
Topic: 1244 Message: 1252

There is also a forum run by RF Concepts on which there is
considerable useful information for Alpha 87A owners. Here's the
link: <http://asktheham.com/>

On Sat, 19 Jan 2013 18:27:07 -0000, "brianmo" <brianmo@...>
wrote in <kdeohr+q8p0@...>:

>Sounds like you need the manual, which is on the rfconcepts web site for download. You could google for it, this link also works:
>
>http://www.rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads
>
>
>Here's the excerpt from the manual, Page 5.
>
>"AC power Source If you do not have a 220V ac outlet in your shack, you will need to get a licensed electrical contractor to install one. A minimum of a 20-amp capacity is required."
>
>There's a lot of good information in that manual, it's worth a read.
>Even if you've owned one for a while, you may find a new technique or mode that you could take advantage of.
>
>-Brian N9ADG
>
>
>--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
>>
>> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?
>>
>

1897:
Radio has no future.
--Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society

Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1253. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 220

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-19 23:21:13 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 1244 Message: 1253

A while back, Gordon at RF Concepts wrote a very good tech article in the Alpha email newsletter, regarding the details of wire size, power factor, and so forth. I assume these are archived on their site. Everyone should read it.

By the way, the 9500 has a fatter power cord than the cord on the 87A... so Gordon is taking his own advice!

73,
Glenn K6NA

At 01:38 PM 1/19/2013, you wrote:
>
>
>
>There is also a forum run by RF Concepts on which there is
>considerable useful information for Alpha 87A owners. Here's the
>link: <http://asktheham.com/>http://asktheham.com/>
>
>On Sat, 19 Jan 2013 18:27:07 -0000, "brianmo"
><mailto:brianmo%40yahoo.com>brianmo@...>
>wrote in <mailto:kdeohr%2Bq8p0%40eGroups.com>kdeohr+q8p0@...>:
>
> >Sounds like you need the manual, which is on the rfconcepts web
> site for download. You could google for it, this link also works:
> >
> ><http://www.rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads>http://www.
> rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads
> >
> >
> >Here's the excerpt from the manual, Page 5.
> >
> >"AC power Source If you do not have a 220V ac outlet in your
> shack, you will need to get a licensed electrical contractor to
> install one. A minimum of a 20-amp capacity is required."
> >
> >There's a lot of good information in that manual, it's worth a read.
> >Even if you've owned one for a while, you may find a new technique
> or mode that you could take advantage of.
> >
> >-Brian N9ADG
> >
> >
> >--- In
> <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
> >>

> >> What size 220 do I need for amp? 20 amps?

1254. Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 01:01:14 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1254 Message: 1254

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1255. RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 02:55:54 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1254 Message: 1255
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Here it is

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 20:01
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1256. Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 03:41:44 UTC
From: brianmo
Topic: 1254 Message: 1256

George, the rfconcepts web site has this information (on the same page as the link to the Alpha 87a owners's manual, by the way):

http://www.rfconcepts.com/DOWNLOADS/Firmware-Downloads

See "87a clear fault 99 procedure"

-Brian N9ADG

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George" wrote:
>
> Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I
> had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
> Can anyone help me?
> Thanks.
>
> George W2YJ
>

1257. RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 10:35:36 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1254 Message: 1257

George

I usually just unplug mine for about 30 sec and there are all gone.

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of George
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 7:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I
had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1258. RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 12:25:12 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1254 Message: 1258

Fred;

I have had mine un-plugged while I'm changing tubes which takes 10 minutes or so and the faults did not clear?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Fred Smith
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 5:36 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

George

I usually just unplug mine for about 30 sec and there are all gone.

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 7:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1259. RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 13:14:18 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1254 Message: 1259

Jerry;

I forgot the command to connect to the Alpha within the command screen? Can you enlighten me?

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jerry
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:56 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; 'George'
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]

[Attachment(s) from Jerry included below]

Here it is

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 20:01
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1260. RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 13:25:17 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1254 Message: 1260

Well so much for my idea. It has taken care of all of mine so far, go to the Alpha web site and check out the 87A manuals there is a way to clear the faults there listed.

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 6:25 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Fred;

I have had mine un-plugged while I'm changing tubes which takes 10 minutes or so and the faults did not clear?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Fred Smith
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 5:36 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.comSubject>
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

George

I usually just unplug mine for about 30 sec and there are all gone.

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 7:01 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
Can anyone help me?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1261. Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 13:25:48 UTC
From: Paul-G0HWC
Topic: 1254 Message: 1261

Hi,

If you look here
http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

This program by HB9ZS can control your 87a
and also reset and clear all fault codes

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://www.truckcam.tv

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George" wrote:
>
> Jerry;
>
> I forgot the command to connect to the Alpha within the command screen? Can
> you enlighten me?
>
> Thanks.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of Jerry
> Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:56 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; 'George'
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]
>
>
>
>
>
> [Attachment(s) from Jerry included below]
>
> Here it is
>
>
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> K1JOS

>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of George
> Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 20:01
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure
>
>
>
>
>
> Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I
> had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
> Can anyone help me?
> Thanks.
>
> George W2YJ
>

1262. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 14:39:04 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1254 Message: 1262

Paul;

I now use HB9ZS's program to control the every day operation of my 87A but when I go to the WEB page you indicated in your reply to me I don't see anywhere on HB9ZS's page to "download" the fault reset program?

I see a complete description of how to set it up and use it but no "download" of this program? I also don't see any indication that it is a part of the Alpha 87A's control program.

Am I missing something?

Thanks.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul-G0HWC
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 8:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Hi,

If you look here
http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

This program by HB9ZS can control your 87a
and also reset and clear all fault codes

Paul G0HWC
http://www.g0hwc.com
http://www.truckcam.tv

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "George" wrote:
>
> Jerry;
>
> I forgot the command to connect to the Alpha within the command screen? Can
> you enlighten me?
>
> Thanks.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ

>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> Of Jerry
> Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:56 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ;
'George'
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]
>
>
>
>
>
> [Attachment(s) from Jerry included below]
>
> Here it is
>
>
>
> 73 Jerry
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> K1JOS
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[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
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> Of George
> Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 20:01
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> Can anyone tell me the procedure for clearing all faults. As I remember I
> had to get into the command mode and send a series of commands.
> Can anyone help me?
> Thanks.
>
> George W2YJ
>

1263. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 14:44:02 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1254 Message: 1263

Hi,

you have to ask Walter directly for 87a Reset software. He will send it to you...

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/20 George <goofyham@...>

> **
>
>
> *Paul;*
>
> *I now use HB9ZS’s program to control the every day operation of my 87A
> but when I go to the WEB page you indicated in your reply to me I don’t see
> anywhere on HB9ZS’s page to “download” the fault reset program?*
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> *I see a complete description of how to set it up and use it but no
> “download” of this program? I also don’t see any indication that it is a
> part of the Alpha 87A’s control program.*
>
> *Am I missing something?*
>
> *Thanks.*
>
> * *
>
> *George W2YJ*
>
> * *
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *Paul-G0HWC
> *Sent:* Sunday, January 20, 2013 8:26 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure****
>
> ** **
>
> ****
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> Hi,
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> If you look here
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> This program by HB9ZS can control your 87a
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> >
> > George W2YJ
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> > From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On
> Behalf
> > Of Jerry
> > Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 9:56 PM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; 'George'
> > Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Lost hard fault clearing procedure [1 Attachment]
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> > George W2YJ
> >****
>
> ****
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1264. HB9ZS fault clearing program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-20 14:54:21 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1264 Message: 1264

Tadej;

Thank you for your response to my inquiring about the Alpha 87A fault reset program.

I sent Walter a note per your suggestion.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Sunday, January 20, 2013 9:44 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Lost hard fault clearing procedure

Hi,

you have to ask Walter directly for 87a Reset software. He will send it to you...

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/20 George <goofyham@...>

Paul;

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Am I missing something?

Thanks.

George W2YJ

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This program by HB9ZS can control your 87a
and also reset and clear all fault codes

Paul G0HWC
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> 73 Jerry
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> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
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> Of George
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> Can anyone help me?
> Thanks.
>
> George W2YJ
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1265. Re: 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-21 23:02:38 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1239 Message: 1265

Go to http://www.asktheham.com

In the search box type 87a upgrades and it will pull up a full list of the upgrades and what they do. Also, according to Glenn - AE0Q at RF Concepts, you do not need the mods to install the AlphaMax chipset. It will work without any mods.

Hope this helps.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Paul Christensen" wrote:
>
> What's the S/N? It may already be up-to-date if it is a late model.
>
> Paul, W9AC
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Fred Smith
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 4:31 PM
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87a mod
>
>
>
>
> I would ship it to Alpha and have all the updates done so you can run AlphaMax software for computer control. I saw that 87A for sale $4200 was a good price thought about buying it for a spare.
>
>
>
> 73,
>
> Fred/N0AZZ
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
> Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 3:08 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] 87a mod
>
>
>
>
>
> I just purchased a brand new (never been opened) 87a and I understand there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I learn about these? Thx NK9N

>
>
>
> ---
>
> No virus found in this message.
> Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
> Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2639/5541 - Release Date: 01/18/13
>

1266. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a mod

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-22 20:32:21 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1239 Message: 1266

Hi,

some years ago Molly told me, to do not touch till it works. My 87a was built in 1993 and survive several massive rtty contest operations. I have added only the AlphaMax/AlphaRemote firmware update and external fan. The installation is pretty easy.

On the link below you have plenty of material about 87a:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/files/

If you are new to 87a this are 3 very important things:

1) do not transmit through the amp with more than 150W from you rtx
2) static electricity can kill pin diodes. My antenna coax cables are DC grounded both central and inner conductor
3) remeber to clean tubes and amp from the dust. I do it once a year..., but this apply to all the amps...

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/22 blackopsspook <blackopsspook@...>

> **
>
>
> Go to http://www.asktheham.com
>
> In the search box type 87a upgrades and it will pull up a full list of the
> upgrades and what they do. Also, according to Glenn - AE0Q at RF Concepts,
> you do not need the mods to install the AlphaMax chipset. It will work
> without any mods.
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> Hope this helps.
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> > Paul, W9AC
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> AlphaMax software for computer control. I saw that 87A for sale $4200 was a
> good price thought about buying it for a spare.
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> Behalf Of Jon
> > Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 3:08 PM
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> there are a couple of factory mods that I should consider. Where can I
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> > Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2639/5541 - Release Date: 01/18/13
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1267. Fs 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-22 20:37:02 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1267 Message: 1267

New case, new front, new set of eimacs. Returned to Alpha Feb 2012 for all updates. Excellent amp. $3999 plus shipping. Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1268. Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 14:07:30 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1268 Message: 1268

I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5 minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx

1269. Re: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 14:26:47 UTC
From: George Troutman
Topic: 1268 Message: 1269

Jon:

Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and then try and see if it works

George
W4FIN

----- Original Message -----
From: Jon
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 9:07 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a

I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5 minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx

1270. Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 14:28:35 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1268 Message: 1270

Tried that several times.... nada

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George Troutman" wrote:
>
> Jon:
>
> Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and then try and see if it works
>
> George
> W4FIN
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jon
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 9:07 AM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a
>
>
>
> I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5 minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx
>

1271. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 15:14:05 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1268 Message: 1271

Jon,

this looks to me that you have 2 problems. Your 87a has suffered probably a hard fault and to prtect itself has turned off. When you tried to turn it on several times, it logged the same hard fault several times which caused probably the fault 99. "The fault 99 resultswhen the same hard fault occurs 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up."

I would start diagnostics connecting the RS232 cable to the amp and see the codes in the fault log with the Hyperterminal. Define which hard fault caused the fault 99.

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/23 Jon <jon@...>

> **
>
>
> Tried that several times.... nada
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George Troutman" wrote:
> >
> > Jon:
> >
> > Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and then
> try and see if it works
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> to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx
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>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1272. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 15:23:21 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1268 Message: 1272

DANGER if YOU PROCEED, BE CAREFUL. Don't do if you do not feel comfortable with the following.

Maybe the tubes have not been baked in? If they have not been run for a lengthy period of time they may need cooking without plate voltage on them.

I just bought a used set of 3CX800A7's and it did the same thing even after warming up for 30 minutes. This was caused by arc within the tubes.

After turning off the 87A I then opened up the 87A and after UN-PLUGGING the amp and shorting out the HV with a screwdriver to make sure there wasn't any HV on the plate caps I removed the plate caps from the tubes so they had no high voltage on them. Leave the tubes plugged in. I then defeated the HV shorting with a pen cap as RF Concepts suggests and put a piece of wood to hold down and defeat the micro switch.

DANGER do not put your hands in the amp while in this state!

Standing back I then plugged it in and turned it on and let it run baking the tubes for an hour without HV on the tubes.

Then turn off the amp and un-plug it. Then take a screwdriver and short the high voltage to make sure there isn't any residual high voltage left in the capacitors. Put it all back and it should play. I'd even let it run in stand-by for another hour.

Others may have a better procedure this is what I did.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 9:29 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Tried that several times.... nada

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "George Troutman" wrote:
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> Jon:
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> Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and then try and see if it works
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1273. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 15:43:46 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1268 Message: 1273

George,

this the cooking processes the note Bulgarians do on russian GU74b tubes
before they install in their amp..

"It is good to rung new tubes with only heater applied for 5-6 hours. The
nominal filament voltage is 12.6V and the current can be up to 4A (3.6A is
nominal). Apply some external cooling air during this period (a household
fan is enough)."

73s Tadej S52X

2013/1/23 George <goofyham@...>

> **
>
>
> *DANGER if YOU PROCEED, BE CAREFUL. Don’t do if you do not feel
> comfortable with the following.*
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> *Maybe the tubes have not been baked in? If they have not been run for a
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> >
> >
> > I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last
> night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had
> to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the

> transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to
> warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5
> minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it
> turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several
> times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker
> is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip
> to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx
> >****
>
> ****
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1274. RE: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 16:17:57 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1268 Message: 1274

Did you check that the proper voltage jumpers were set before it was plugged in? Then is all the new wiring that was installed and the spliced cable checked out before plugging it in?

Fred/N0AZZ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 8:08 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a

I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5 minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx

---

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2221 / Virus Database: 2639/5550 - Release Date: 01/22/13

1275. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 17:09:01 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1268 Message: 1275

**

> *Standing back I then plugged it in and turned it on and let it run
> baking the tubes for an hour without HV on the tubes.*
>

Please be aware that this will work with an amp using triodes (3CX800), but do NOT do it with an amp using tetrode tubes (any tube that starts with a number 4, like the popular 4CX800). It will probably blow the screen supply if a tube arcs momentarily. You must also disconnect the screen voltage from the tubes before lighting them up with filament voltage!

Glenn AE0Q

1276. Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 18:09:02 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1268 Message: 1276

That makes sense..... however im using a computer with Windows 8 and not sure how to "talk" to the amp. I've got the db25 in back of the amp wired through to a usb port on the computer... just not sure what to do next. The instructions on the RF Concept website are for windows 95/98.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Tadej Arcon wrote:
>
> Jon,
>
> this looks to me that you have 2 problems. Your 87a has suffered probably a
> hard fault and to prtect itself has turned off. When you tried to turn it
> on several times, it logged the same hard fault several times which caused
> probably the fault 99. "The fault 99 resultswhen the same hard fault occurs
> 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up."
>
> I would start diagnostics connecting the RS232 cable to the amp and see the
> codes in the fault log with the Hyperterminal. Define which hard fault
> caused the fault 99.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2013/1/23 Jon
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > Tried that several times.... nada
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George Troutman" wrote:
> > >
> > > Jon:
> > >
> > > Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and then
> > try and see if it works
> > >
> > > George
> > > W4FIN
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Jon
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> > > Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 9:07 AM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a
> > >

> > >
> > >
> > > I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last
> > night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so had
> > to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed the
> > transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted to
> > warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for 5
> > minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it
> > turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that several
> > times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220 breaker
> > is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a trip
> > to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx
> > >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

1277. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 21:05:43 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1268 Message: 1277

Jon;

Just download the terminal program, "PuTTY", and use that to communicate
with the 87A.

I use the PUTTY terminal program, start it up and click the "serial" box,
set it for 4800 baud, and select the com port your computer assigned to the
USB port click "connect" and you are good to go

You'll know you are connected if you hit a "enter" and the 87A returns a
"syntax error". If you watch the screen you'll see "RM00000" and "RM00010"
over and over sent from the 87A.

Mine works fine and I run Windows 8.

I had to make a 9 pin to 25 pin cable because the connector on the rear of
the 87A is a DB-25 25 pin connector. Most standard null modem cables are 9
pin to 9 pin. Just make sure pins 2 and 3 are swapped end to end and pin 5
to pin 5 on each end. You'll only need 3 wires connected at each cable end.

I'm here if you have any questions.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Jon
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 1:09 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

That makes sense..... however im using a computer with Windows 8 and not
sure how to "talk" to the amp. I've got the db25 in back of the amp wired
through to a usb port on the computer... just not sure what to do next. The
instructions on the RF Concept website are for windows 95/98.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , Tadej
Arcon wrote:
>
> Jon,
>
> this looks to me that you have 2 problems. Your 87a has suffered probably
a
> hard fault and to prtect itself has turned off. When you tried to turn it
> on several times, it logged the same hard fault several times which caused
> probably the fault 99. "The fault 99 resultswhen the same hard fault
occurs
> 6 consecutive times without one successful power-up."

>
> I would start diagnostics connecting the RS232 cable to the amp and see
the
> codes in the fault log with the Hyperterminal. Define which hard fault
> caused the fault 99.
>
> 73s Tadej S52X
>
> 2013/1/23 Jon
>
> > **
> >
> >
> > Tried that several times.... nada
> >
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
"George Troutman" wrote:
> > >
> > > Jon:
> > >
> > > Unplug the amp for couple minutes. This will allow it to reset and
then
> > try and see if it works
> > >
> > > George
> > > W4FIN
> > >
> > > ----- Original Message -----
> > > From: Jon
> > > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > > Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 9:07 AM
> > > Subject: [Alpha87a] Major problem with new 87a
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > I purchased a new (still in box) 87a and was going to fire it up last
> > night. My 220 that was just installed is a little far from the rig so
had
> > to splice in a 8 foot section of cable to reach the outlet. Installed
the
> > transformer, plugged it in without any connections to rig... just wanted
to
> > warm it up. Turned it on... lights and fan came on. I left the room for
5
> > minutes and when I returned it had shut down. Hit the on switch, and it
> > turned on for about a second before shutting down again. Tried that
several
> > times and now it wont even turn on for a nano second (fuses?). 220
breaker

> > is not tripped. I'll call RF Concepts later today and see if it need a
trip
> > to Colorado... just thought someone might see something I've missed. Thx
> > >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
>

1278. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 21:19:14 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1268 Message: 1278

Excellent info Glenn on the 4CX800A7's not to try the bake in procedure I mentioned. It is only good for 3CX800A7's.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn AE0Q
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12:09 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Major problem with new 87a

Standing back I then plugged it in and turned it on and let it run baking the tubes for an hour without HV on the tubes.

Please be aware that this will work with an amp using triodes (3CX800), but do NOT do it with an amp using tetrode tubes (any tube that starts with a number 4, like the popular 4CX800). It will probably blow the screen supply if a tube arcs momentarily. You must also disconnect the screen voltage from the tubes before lighting them up with filament voltage!

Glenn AE0Q

1279. Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-23 22:16:59 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1279 Message: 1279

Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that experience? Suggestions?

1280. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 00:34:03 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1279 Message: 1280

Let's see this:

http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=1886.15

Tadej Arcon
Sent from my Iphone

On 23. jan. 2013, at 23:16, "Jon" <jon@...> wrote:

> Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that experience? Suggestions?
>
>

1281. Fs 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 01:08:38 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1267 Message: 1281

Amp sold. Thanks for all of the inquires. Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1282. Re: Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 13:36:49 UTC
From: southdaleus
Topic: 1279 Message: 1282

Maybe step start fuse?

<http://asktheham.com/node/52>

GL
Dale, K9VUJ

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
>
> Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that experience? Suggestions?
>

1283. 87A problem with LVPS fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 14:47:52 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1283 Message: 1283

In my continuing saga, I found that the tiny Low Voltage Power Supply fuse is blowing causing the Fault 22. Anyone know a likely cause that this continues to blow?

1284. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A problem with LVPS fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 16:15:45 UTC
From: James Nail
Topic: 1283 Message: 1284

Did you say this was purchased New in Box from HRO or RFConcepts? I'd be raising cane with them..

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A problem with LVPS fuse blowing

In my continuing saga, I found that the tiny Low Voltage Power Supply fuse is blowing causing the Fault 22. Anyone know a likely cause that this continues to blow?

1285. Re: Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 16:26:53 UTC
From: k2cb_eric
Topic: 1279 Message: 1285

I also bought a "brand new" condition Alpha 87A about a year ago, and when I got it home and on my test bench, the same thing happened. The amp would turn on for a second, then power down. After three attempts, I looked a little further, and discovered that the firmware eprom had lost its memory, a common problem with aging eproms. I had an older non-alphamax eprom lying around from another 87A that I upgraded in the past, and when I installed that eprom into the "new" 87A, and the amp came alive just fine. I then pulled the eprom from another 87A, read it, then re-burned the alphamax code into the original eprom from the bad 87A, and re-installed it. All was well once again.

Do you have an eprom programmer/reader? Due to the nature of the code being the property of Alpha, I don't think it would be a good idea to provide an image of the eprom, but if you can read your eprom and get the checksum, I can tell you the checksum value of a good eprom, and that will tell you whether or not you have an issue with the eprom.

If that is the case, a re-programmed or replacement eprom will get it going.

Eric
K2CB

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
>
> Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that experience? Suggestions?
>

1286. Re: Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 16:43:18 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 1279 Message: 1286

Nope.... don have an eprom programmer/reader.... guess I could find one but have never had experience with one. You can email me direct at jon@cumulus.com. thx

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k2cb_eric" wrote:
>
>
>
> I also bought a "brand new" condition Alpha 87A about a year ago, and when I got it home and on my test bench, the same thing happened. The amp would turn on for a second, then power down. After three attempts, I looked a little further, and discovered that the firmware eprom had lost its memory, a common problem with aging eproms. I had an older non-alphamax eprom lying around from another 87A that I upgraded in the past, and when I installed that eprom into the "new" 87A, and the amp came alive just fine. I then pulled the eprom from another 87A, read it, then re-burned the alphamax code into the original eprom from the bad 87A, and re-installed it. All was well once again.
>
> Do you have an eprom programmer/reader? Due to the nature of the code being the property of Alpha, I don't think it would be a good idea to provide an image of the eprom, but if you can read your eprom and get the checksum, I can tell you the checksum value of a good eprom, and that will tell you whether or not you have an issue with the eprom.
>
> If that is the case, a re-programmed or replacement eprom will get it going.
>
>
> Eric
> K2CB
>
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
> >
> > Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that experience? Suggestions?
> >
>

1287. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 22?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-24 16:50:35 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1279 Message: 1287

I do not think there is a problem with eprom, since you can communicate with the amps brain via rs232. I would investigate the LVPS due the fuse blowing. Check the electrolytic capacitors and megaohm resistors...

gl, Tadej S52X

2013/1/24 Jon <jon@...>

> **
>
>
> Nope.... don have an eprom programmer/reader.... guess I could find one
> but have never had experience with one. You can email me direct at
> jon@.... thx
>
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "k2cb_eric" wrote:
> >
> >
> >
> > I also bought a "brand new" condition Alpha 87A about a year ago, and
> when I got it home and on my test bench, the same thing happened. The amp
> would turn on for a second, then power down. After three attempts, I looked
> a little further, and discovered that the firmware eprom had lost its
> memory, a common problem with aging eproms. I had an older non-alphamax
> eprom lying around from another 87A that I upgraded in the past, and when I
> installed that eprom into the "new" 87A, and the amp came alive just fine.
> I then pulled the eprom from another 87A, read it, then re-burned the
> alphamax code into the original eprom from the bad 87A, and re-installed
> it. All was well once again.
> >
> > Do you have an eprom programmer/reader? Due to the nature of the code
> being the property of Alpha, I don't think it would be a good idea to
> provide an image of the eprom, but if you can read your eprom and get the
> checksum, I can tell you the checksum value of a good eprom, and that will
> tell you whether or not you have an issue with the eprom.
> >
> > If that is the case, a re-programmed or replacement eprom will get it
> going.
> >
> >
> > Eric
> > K2CB
> >
> >
> >

> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jon" wrote:
> > >
> > > Got the fault 99 reset, now the amp will power on for a nanosecond
> before shutting down and it says it is a fault 22. Anyone had that
> experience? Suggestions?
> > >
> >
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1288. corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-26 17:22:13 UTC
From: Barry J Cohen
Topic: 1288 Message: 1288
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Good afternoon

I think the table is corrupted from rf getting in to the amp last night on 160M contest?

Amp only works on 20M, 12M and 160M

On the other bands for example on 20 the freq reads 16050 MHZ segment 5

The other bands are reading outside the band on high side ?

Is there a way to reload the default band segments it appears they all got corrupted??

Thanks

N2bj@...

www.n2bj.com

1289. Re: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-26 17:29:53 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1288 Message: 1289

Barry, Are you connected to the 87A with a PC now?

The amp has USER and DEFAULT memories, you may need to resave your user memories. The DEFAULT can only be loaded by running a maintenance program that loads the microprocessor. Hopefully it is just user memories that got changed.

Glenn AE0Q

On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:22 AM, Barry J Cohen <n2bj@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Good afternoon****
>
> ** **
>
> I think the table is corrupted from rf getting in to the amp last night on
> 160M contest?****
>
> ** **
>
> Amp only works on 20M, 12M and 160M****
>
> ** **
>
> On the other bands for example on 20 the freq reads 16050 MHZ segment 5**
> **
>
> The other bands are reading outside the band on high side ?****
>
> ** **
>
> Is there a way to reload the default band segments it appears they all got
> corrupted??****
>
> ** **
>
> Thanks****
>
> ** **
>
> N2bj@...****
>

> ** **
>
> ** **
>
>
>

1290. Re: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-26 17:31:25 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1288 Message: 1290

Barry, Are you connected to the 87A with a PC now?

The amp has USER and DEFAULT memories, you may need to reload the user memories. The DEFAULT can only be loaded by running a maintenance program that loads the microprocesor.

On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:22 AM, Barry J Cohen <n2bj@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Good afternoon****
>
> ** **
>
> I think the table is corrupted from rf getting in to the amp last night on
> 160M contest?****
>
> ** **
>
> Amp only works on 20M, 12M and 160M****
>
> ** **
>
> On the other bands for example on 20 the freq reads 16050 MHZ segment 5**
> **
>
> The other bands are reading outside the band on high side ?****
>
> ** **
>
> Is there a way to reload the default band segments it appears they all got
> corrupted??****
>
> ** **
>
> Thanks****
>
> ** **
>
> N2bj@...****
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> ** **
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> ****
>
> www.n2bj.com****
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> ** **
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> ** **
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>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@arrl.net --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1291. Re: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-26 17:34:40 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1288 Message: 1291

Barry,

To test the default memory settings, with PC connected to 87A, manually go to seg 1 of a band, press DEFAULT on amp and see what it reads out on PC, should be the normal frequency that is center of segment 1.

Glenn

On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:29 AM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
> Barry, Are you connected to the 87A with a PC now?
>
> The amp has USER and DEFAULT memories, you may need to resave your user
> memories. The DEFAULT can only be loaded by running a maintenance program
> that loads the microprocessor. Hopefully it is just user memories that got
> changed.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:22 AM, Barry J Cohen <n2bj@...> wrote:
>>
>>
>>
>> Good afternoon
>>
>>
>>
>> I think the table is corrupted from rf getting in to the amp last night on
>> 160M contest?
>>
>>
>>
>> Amp only works on 20M, 12M and 160M
>>
>>
>>
>> On the other bands for example on 20 the freq reads 16050 MHZ segment 5
>>
>> The other bands are reading outside the band on high side ?
>>
>>
>>
>> Is there a way to reload the default band segments it appears they all got

>> corrupted??
>>
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>>
>> Thanks
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>> N2bj@...
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"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1292. [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-01-26 18:51:01 UTC
From: Barry J Cohen
Topic: 1288 Message: 1292
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I guess I didn't explain myself properly I know how to set the segment per the User tuneup programming of page 32 of the manual but it won't let me program the segment the minute I put 20 watts of RF to the amp the frequency segment changes as below.

Anyone have this ever happen?

How to I fix this or reset it?

www.n2bj.com

From: Barry J Cohen [mailto:n2bj@...]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2013 11:49 AM
To: 'gm5bkc@...'
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Glenn for example when I go to 80M the readout automatically goes to 4090

On 20M it goes automatically to 16310 MHZ

Is there a way to reset this

Thanks

Barry

www.n2bj.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Glenn AE0Q [mailto:gm5bkc@...]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2013 11:36 AM
To: n2bj@...
Subject: Fwd: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong frequency in when changeing bands

Sending this again direct to your mail in case it doesn't go thru the reflector.

---------- Forwarded message ----------

From: Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>

Date: Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:34 AM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] corrupted table how to reset Putting wrong

frequency in when changeing bands

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Barry,

To test the default memory settings, with PC connected to 87A,

manually go to seg 1 of a band, press DEFAULT on amp and see what it

reads out on PC, should be the normal frequency that is center of

segment 1.

Glenn

On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:29 AM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

> Barry, Are you connected to the 87A with a PC now?

>

> The amp has USER and DEFAULT memories, you may need to resave your user

> memories. The DEFAULT can only be loaded by running a maintenance program

> that loads the microprocessor. Hopefully it is just user memories that
got

> changed.

>

> Glenn AE0Q

>

>

> On Sat, Jan 26, 2013 at 11:22 AM, Barry J Cohen <n2bj@...> wrote:

>>

>>

>>

>> Good afternoon

>>

>>

>>

>> I think the table is corrupted from rf getting in to the amp last night
on

>> 160M contest?

>>

>>

>>

>> Amp only works on 20M, 12M and 160M

>>

>>

>>

>> On the other bands for example on 20 the freq reads 16050 MHZ segment 5

>>

>> The other bands are reading outside the band on high side ?

>>

>>

>>

>> Is there a way to reload the default band segments it appears they all
got

>> corrupted??

>>

>>

>>

>> Thanks

>>

>>

>>

>> N2bj@...

1293. External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 15:11:22 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1293 Message: 1293

Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??

I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory fan as closely as possible.

Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning this muffin fan.

1294. Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 15:21:01 UTC
From: k2ue@ymail.com
Topic: 1293 Message: 1294

Because of differences in Power Factor and construction among AC fans, it would be better to match it on the basis of RPM and CFM rating.
Clyde, K2UE

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "blackopsspook" wrote:
>
> Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
>
> I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory fan as closely as possible.
>
> Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning this muffin fan.
>

1295. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 15:24:52 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1293 Message: 1295

Give Alpha a call...they can tell you.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 2/6/2013 8:21 AM, k2ue@... wrote:
>
> Because of differences in Power Factor and construction among AC fans,
> it would be better to match it on the basis of RPM and CFM rating.
> Clyde, K2UE
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> "blackopsspook" wrote:
> >
> > Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> >
> > I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory fan
> as closely as possible.
> >
> > Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> this muffin fan.
> >
>
>

1296. Re: [Alpha87a] External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 15:34:20 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 1293 Message: 1296

I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
similar units out there (but noisier).

--Glenn K6NA

At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
>
>
>Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
>
>I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
>range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
>fan as closely as possible.
>
>Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
>this muffin fan.

1297. Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 16:13:30 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1293 Message: 1297

Thank you for the information Glenn... Yes, I was also concerned about the noise level of the fan, which is why I consulted probably the same chart you did.

I'm assuming this is a 70ma fan, but I'll look up the part number to be certain. You've been a real help with this. Thank you again for the information.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
>
> I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> similar units out there (but noisier).
>
> --Glenn K6NA
>
> At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> >
> >
> >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> >
> >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> >fan as closely as possible.
> >
> >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> >this muffin fan.
>

1298. Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 16:17:32 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1293 Message: 1298

Thank you for the advice Joe; however, I personally hate to call them about something like this when they sell the part, albeit a little high priced IMHO.

They are always so very helpful, and I do buy a lot of parts from them for all my Alpha amps, but I feel cheap asking for a spec so I can buy the part somewhere else. And yes, they would tell me if I asked...

I know it sound weird, but I don't like to take advantage of a good thing.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Joe wrote:
>
> Give Alpha a call...they can tell you.
>
> 73
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
>
> On 2/6/2013 8:21 AM, k2ue@... wrote:
> >
> > Because of differences in Power Factor and construction among AC fans,
> > it would be better to match it on the basis of RPM and CFM rating.
> > Clyde, K2UE
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com ,
> > "blackopsspook" wrote:
> > >
> > > Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> > >
> > > I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> > range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory fan
> > as closely as possible.
> > >
> > > Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> > this muffin fan.
> > >
> >
> >
>

1299. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 16:24:19 UTC
From: Mark
Topic: 1293 Message: 1299

I've been using a fan powered by an external DC supply, but have always wondered should it blow in or out? (Mine blows out)

Mark. N2QT

On Feb 6, 2013, at 11:13 AM, "blackopsspook" <blackopsspook@...> wrote:

> Thank you for the information Glenn... Yes, I was also concerned about the noise level of the fan, which is why I consulted probably the same chart you did.
>
> I'm assuming this is a 70ma fan, but I'll look up the part number to be certain. You've been a real help with this. Thank you again for the information.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
> >
> > I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> > I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> > noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> > likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> > similar units out there (but noisier).
> >
> > --Glenn K6NA
> >
> > At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> > >
> > >
> > >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> > >
> > >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> > >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> > >fan as closely as possible.
> > >
> > >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> > >this muffin fan.
> >
>
>

1300. Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 17:22:07 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1293 Message: 1300

Glenn,

An interesting fact is that this fan is a 50Hz model, which means it is going to run faster, which will change the air flow rating to a higher value than m3/h 117. The air flow pressure rating of 30 dB(A) will also rise. I'll have to calculate for grins and giggles later.

Anyway, I was surprised they used a 50Hz fan... Although, it quite acceptable to run a 50Hz motor on 60Hz mains. Of course you don't want to run a 60Hz motor on 50Hz mains. It's just a little surprising they chose that fan.

Anyway, have a good week!

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
>
> I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> similar units out there (but noisier).
>
> --Glenn K6NA
>
> At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> >
> >
> >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> >
> >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> >fan as closely as possible.
> >
> >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> >this muffin fan.
>

1301. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 17:36:26 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck
Topic: 1293 Message: 1301

They should blow in
Bob W6VY

----- Original Message -----
From: Mark
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 8:24 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

I've been using a fan powered by an external DC supply, but have always wondered should it blow in or out? (Mine blows out)

Mark. N2QT

On Feb 6, 2013, at 11:13 AM, "blackopsspook" <blackopsspook@...> wrote:

Thank you for the information Glenn... Yes, I was also concerned about the noise level of the fan, which is why I consulted probably the same chart you did.

I'm assuming this is a 70ma fan, but I'll look up the part number to be certain. You've been a real help with this. Thank you again for the information.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
>
> I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> similar units out there (but noisier).
>
> --Glenn K6NA
>
> At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> >
> >
> >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> >
> >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> >fan as closely as possible.
> >
> >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> >this muffin fan.
>

1302. Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 17:40:33 UTC
From: blackopsspook
Topic: 1293 Message: 1302

Mark,

The fan should be setup for a positive flow system, which means it should be blowing in. You'll notice that the air flow off of your tube stacks is coming out of the cabinet at the cover perforations. If you have an external fan drawing air out of the cabinet around the transformer, this is counter productive the designed cooling.

You want the exteranl fan to draw cool air into the cabinet to facilitate the flow of cooler air over the components and around the tubes.

Basically, turn the fan around so it blows air into the cabinet.

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Mark wrote:
>
> I've been using a fan powered by an external DC supply, but have always wondered should
> it blow in or out? (Mine blows out)
>
> Mark. N2QT
>
> On Feb 6, 2013, at 11:13 AM, "blackopsspook" wrote:
>
> > Thank you for the information Glenn... Yes, I was also concerned about the noise level of the fan, which is why I consulted probably the same chart you did.
> >
> > I'm assuming this is a 70ma fan, but I'll look up the part number to be certain. You've been a real help with this. Thank you again for the information.
> >
> > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
> > >
> > > I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> > > I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> > > noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> > > likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> > > similar units out there (but noisier).
> > >
> > > --Glenn K6NA
> > >
> > > At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> > > >
> > > >
> > > >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> > > >
> > > >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> > > >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> > > >fan as closely as possible.
> > > >

> > > >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> > > >this muffin fan.
> > >
> >
> >
>

1303. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: External Muffin Fan Amperage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-02-06 17:41:39 UTC
From: Mark
Topic: 1293 Message: 1303

Thanks will do!

Mark. N2QT

On Feb 6, 2013, at 12:40 PM, "blackopsspook" <blackopsspook@...> wrote:

> Mark,
>
> The fan should be setup for a positive flow system, which means it should be blowing in. You'll notice that the air flow off of your tube stacks is coming out of the cabinet at the cover perforations. If you have an external fan drawing air out of the cabinet around the transformer, this is counter productive the designed cooling.
>
> You want the exteranl fan to draw cool air into the cabinet to facilitate the flow of cooler air over the components and around the tubes.
>
> Basically, turn the fan around so it blows air into the cabinet.
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Mark wrote:
> >
> > I've been using a fan powered by an external DC supply, but have always wondered should
> > it blow in or out? (Mine blows out)
> >
> > Mark. N2QT
> >
> > On Feb 6, 2013, at 11:13 AM, "blackopsspook" wrote:
> >
> > > Thank you for the information Glenn... Yes, I was also concerned about the noise level of the fan, which is why I consulted probably the same chart you did.
> > >
> > > I'm assuming this is a 70ma fan, but I'll look up the part number to be certain. You've been a real help with this. Thank you again for the information.
> > >
> > > --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, Glenn Rattmann wrote:
> > > >
> > > > I believe the original is a EBM-Pabst 4580Z. The label says 70 mils at 230V.
> > > > I recommend you try to find the exact one, because when I found a
> > > > noise-ratings chart online, this one was the most quiet. Seems
> > > > likely Alpha picked it for this reason, because there are many
> > > > similar units out there (but noisier).
> > > >
> > > > --Glenn K6NA
> > > >
> > > > At 07:11 AM 2/6/2013, you wrote:
> > > > >
> > > > >

> > > > >Does anyone know the amperage rating for the external muffin fan??
> > > > >
> > > > >I am aware it is a 230V, 100 CFM fan; however, these fan ratings can
> > > > >range from .12 amps to 19 amps. I would like to match the factory
> > > > >fan as closely as possible.
> > > > >
> > > > >Thank you in advance for any information you can provide concerning
> > > > >this muffin fan.
> > > >
> > >
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> >
>
>

1304. FS: Alpha 87a Omega

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-04 13:52:59 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1304 Message: 1304

Hi Group,

I have to many amp here, so I am going to sell my Alpha 87a Omega - limited edition. The amp is in excellent shape. Please contact me off-list at s52x (at) arrl.net

73s,
--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1305. 87A - clicking sounds

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-17 20:34:07 UTC
From: johnstarr2013
Topic: 1305 Message: 1305

Hello,

just got my new to me 87A (1993 manufacture) and it works great on all bands. It has all the last updates, alphamax and the accessory fan. The fan is a bit noisier than I expected but I was told to expect this. What I didnt expect to hear is a very faint, barely perceptible rapid fine clicking sound coming from the amp. My older-age high freq hearing isn't so good and my wife noticed it. I have to get my ear right up to the front panle and it sounds like rapid random clicking like someone sending CW gibberish at around 15wpm. Any idea where this could be coming from?

73
john

1306. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A - clicking sounds

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-17 21:52:41 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1305 Message: 1306

I realize this is not much help but I just turned mine on and let it run
for 20 minutes and I heard no such clicking sounds . Good luck . John
kb2huk
On 3/17/2013 4:34 PM, johnstarr2013 wrote:
>
> Hello,
>
> just got my new to me 87A (1993 manufacture) and it works great on all
> bands. It has all the last updates, alphamax and the accessory fan.
> The fan is a bit noisier than I expected but I was told to expect
> this. What I didnt expect to hear is a very faint, barely perceptible
> rapid fine clicking sound coming from the amp. My older-age high freq
> hearing isn't so good and my wife noticed it. I have to get my ear
> right up to the front panle and it sounds like rapid random clicking
> like someone sending CW gibberish at around 15wpm. Any idea where this
> could be coming from?
>
> 73
> john
>
>

1307. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A - clicking sounds

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-18 00:13:14 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1305 Message: 1307

Sent from my iPad

On 17. mar. 2013, at 22:52, John Molenda <cdistflatfoot@...> wrote:

> I realize this is not much help but I just turned mine on and let it run for 20 minutes and I heard no such clicking sounds . Good luck . John kb2huk
> On 3/17/2013 4:34 PM, johnstarr2013 wrote:
>>
>> Hello,
>>
>> just got my new to me 87A (1993 manufacture) and it works great on all bands. It has all the last updates, alphamax and the accessory fan. The fan is a bit noisier than I expected but I was told to expect this. What I didnt expect to hear is a very faint, barely perceptible rapid fine clicking sound coming from the amp. My older-age high freq hearing isn't so good and my wife noticed it. I have to get my ear right up to the front panle and it sounds like rapid random clicking like someone sending CW gibberish at around 15wpm. Any idea where this could be coming from?
>>
>> 73
>> john
>
>

1308. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A - clicking sounds

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-18 00:14:02 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1305 Message: 1308

Is it possible to be blower?

73 Ted s52x

On 17. mar. 2013, at 22:52, John Molenda <cdistflatfoot@...> wrote:

> I realize this is not much help but I just turned mine on and let it run for 20 minutes and I heard no such clicking sounds . Good luck . John kb2huk
> On 3/17/2013 4:34 PM, johnstarr2013 wrote:
>>
>> Hello,
>>
>> just got my new to me 87A (1993 manufacture) and it works great on all bands. It has all the last updates, alphamax and the accessory fan. The fan is a bit noisier than I expected but I was told to expect this. What I didnt expect to hear is a very faint, barely perceptible rapid fine clicking sound coming from the amp. My older-age high freq hearing isn't so good and my wife noticed it. I have to get my ear right up to the front panle and it sounds like rapid random clicking like someone sending CW gibberish at around 15wpm. Any idea where this could be coming from?
>>
>> 73
>> john
>
>

1309. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A - clicking sounds

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-18 00:19:26 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1305 Message: 1309

maybe something in the blower ? apebble ? john
On 3/17/2013 8:14 PM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
> Is it possible to be blower?
>
> 73 Ted s52x
>
> On 17. mar. 2013, at 22:52, John Molenda <cdistflatfoot@...
> <mailto:cdistflatfoot@...>> wrote:
>
>> I realize this is not much help but I just turned mine on and let it
>> run for 20 minutes and I heard no such clicking sounds . Good luck .
>> John kb2huk
>>
>> On 3/17/2013 4:34 PM, johnstarr2013 wrote:
>>>
>>> Hello,
>>>
>>> just got my new to me 87A (1993 manufacture) and it works great on
>>> all bands. It has all the last updates, alphamax and the accessory
>>> fan. The fan is a bit noisier than I expected but I was told to
>>> expect this. What I didnt expect to hear is a very faint, barely
>>> perceptible rapid fine clicking sound coming from the amp. My
>>> older-age high freq hearing isn't so good and my wife noticed it. I
>>> have to get my ear right up to the front panle and it sounds like
>>> rapid random clicking like someone sending CW gibberish at around
>>> 15wpm. Any idea where this could be coming from?
>>>
>>> 73
>>> john
>>>
>>
>

1310. selling price for 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-26 20:18:02 UTC
From: boloc442
Topic: 1310 Message: 1310

Hello all , bought a Alpha 87a with alpha max . this was a used amp which I bought from Alpha after they completely reconditioned it I even had them put on a new face plate not because it needed it but because i had the opportunity and there were a couple marks on the one it had . The amp is as close to mint as it could be it even has a new fan kit installed. I am buying a new flexradio and need some money . Any one who may be interested I am asking 3,900 . I am available either on the group or via phone 716 208-1658 Thanks John Molenda kb2huk

1311. Re: selling price for 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-27 17:12:12 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1310 Message: 1311

*Ok I have made up my mind to sell my amp (having a hard time letting it go) Price change Reduced to 3,500 + shipping Thanks. *
/
//Hello all , bought a Alpha 87a with alpha max . this was a used amp which I bought from Alpha after they completely reconditioned it I even had them put on a new face plate not because it needed it but because i had the opportunity and there were a couple marks on the one it had . The amp is as close to mint as it could be it even has a new fan kit installed. I am buying a new flexradio and need some money . Any one who may be interested I am asking 3,900 . I am available either on the group or via phone 716 208-1658 Thanks John Molenda kb2huk //
///

1312. Breaking in old NOS 3CX800A7

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-29 00:04:51 UTC
From: johnstarr2013
Topic: 1312 Message: 1312

I have a NOS but never powered pair of 3CX800A7. I would like to cook the tubes with filaments only for 1-2 days before applying screen and HV. Am I correct that the OPR/Stby switch in Standby will acomplish this without any risk to the tubes?

thanks\73 john

1313. Re: selling price for 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-29 01:47:52 UTC
From: w6vy
Topic: 1310 Message: 1313

John,
What is the serial number of the amp? Do you have the Alpha shipping boxes?
Thanks
Bob W6VY

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, John Molenda <cdistflatfoot@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> *Ok I have made up my mind to sell my amp (having a hard time letting it
> go) Price change Reduced to 3,500 + shipping Thanks. *
> /
> //Hello all , bought a Alpha 87a with alpha max . this was a used amp
> which I bought from Alpha after they completely reconditioned it I even
> had them put on a new face plate not because it needed it but because i
> had the opportunity and there were a couple marks on the one it had .
> The amp is as close to mint as it could be it even has a new fan kit
> installed. I am buying a new flexradio and need some money . Any one who
> may be interested I am asking 3,900 . I am available either on the group
> or via phone 716 208-1658 Thanks John Molenda kb2huk //
> ///
>

1314. Re: Breaking in old NOS 3CX800A7

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-29 18:40:49 UTC
From: dickgreen03755
Topic: 1312 Message: 1314

No, the 87A applies reduced plate voltage to the tubes during the warmup period.

I can't recall right now what the voltage is, but I think it's around half the operating voltage, so maybe somewhere in the 1000V-2000V range. After warmup the voltage rises to the operating level, closer to 3,000V or just under.

If the tubes currently in your 87A are OK, you can easily test this by turning the amp on and selecting the HV button to display plate voltage on the LED multimeter. You'll see what the approximate voltage is during warmup, then you'll see it jump up after warmup.

I *think* you can do what you want if you don't connect the plate caps, but I don't know if that will cause the CPU to immediately fault or fault when the warmup period is over. You'd have to ask RF Concepts about that. If they say it will work, you want to exercise extreme caution -- never touch the plate caps with the amp plugged in, never plug in the amp with the cover off, and make sure the plate caps aren't touching anything when you put the cover back on.

BTW, there's no screen. The tube is a triode. I'm pretty sure it's in grounded-grid configuration, so you don't need to worry about any voltages other than plate voltage.

73, Dick WC1M

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "johnstarr2013" <johnstarr2013@...> wrote:
>
> I have a NOS but never powered pair of 3CX800A7. I would like to cook the tubes with filaments only for 1-2 days before applying screen and HV. Am I correct that the OPR/Stby switch in Standby will acomplish this without any risk to the tubes?
>
> thanks\73 john
>

1315. Re: [Alpha87a] Breaking in old NOS 3CX800A7

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-30 01:54:59 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1312 Message: 1315

You should check to see if the NOS tubes are the YC-238/3CX800A7. That designator was added to the tubes that Eimac screened for lowest grid current for ETO/Alpha Power/Alpha Radio Products. If they are NOT YC-238 the grid current may be a bit high at full output.

Dick is correct, the high voltage, filament voltage and bias voltage (on the cathode) are all present all the time. The 87A stays in the LOW HV mode (approx 1600vdc) during warmup no matter what position the HI/LO switch is in. The LO mode was originally made for the old FCC rules of lower power for CW and should never be used, no matter what the mode. Higher HV is better for the tubes (lower Ip and Ig) even if you are only running 500w.

Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Thu, Mar 28, 2013 at 6:04 PM, johnstarr2013 <johnstarr2013@...>wrote:

> **
>
>
> I have a NOS but never powered pair of 3CX800A7. I would like to cook the
> tubes with filaments only for 1-2 days before applying screen and HV. Am I
> correct that the OPR/Stby switch in Standby will acomplish this without any
> risk to the tubes?
>
> thanks\73 john
>
>
>

--
"Remember, any tool can be the right tool!" Red Green

AE0Q ex: GM5BKC, ZB2WZ, V31RY, SV0WY, WA0VPK
ae0q@... --SOWP 5558-M, ARRL LM, QCWA LM, OOTC, NCVA--
http://www.radiotipsandtales.com

1316. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: selling price for 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-03-30 17:11:11 UTC
From: John Molenda
Topic: 1310 Message: 1316

On 3/28/2013 9:47 PM, w6vy wrote:
>
> John,
> What is the serial number of the amp? Do you have the Alpha shipping
> boxes?
> Thanks
> Bob W6VY
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>,
> John Molenda <cdistflatfoot@...> wrote:
> >
> >
> >
> > *Ok I have made up my mind to sell my amp (having a hard time
> letting it
> > go) Price change Reduced to 3,500 + shipping Thanks. *
> > /
> > //Hello all , bought a Alpha 87a with alpha max . this was a used amp
> > which I bought from Alpha after they completely reconditioned it I even
> > had them put on a new face plate not because it needed it but because i
> > had the opportunity and there were a couple marks on the one it had .
> > The amp is as close to mint as it could be it even has a new fan kit
> > installed. I am buying a new flexradio and need some money . Any one
> who
> > may be interested I am asking 3,900 . I am available either on the
> group
> > or via phone 716 208-1658 Thanks John Molenda kb2huk //
> > ///
> >
>
>
have i answered you yet ? sorry I have the original boxes and the
number is 95390792 a few are interested and everyone is asking multiple
questions . John Molenda kb2huk

1317. MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 04:44:23 UTC
From: JAMES
Topic: 1317 Message: 1317

I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using a MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.

Thank you for th help,

Jim
K5WLQ

1318. RE: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 10:53:52 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1317 Message: 1318

Jim

I tried the remote model and it worked very well....for about 20 min, then toast. This was at 1512w on my Alpha 4510 meter sent it in to MFJ they repaired, then I sold it while still working. I then bought a new Palstar HF-Auto to use till my Alpha 4040 auto tuner gets here it has worked very well not a single issue.

73,

Fred/N0AZZ

K3 Ser #'s 6730/5299--KX3 # 2573--K2/100--KAT100

P3/SVGA--KPA500--KAT500--W2

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of JAMES
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:44 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using a MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.

Thank you for th help,

Jim
K5WLQ

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2013.0.2904 / Virus Database: 3162/6243 - Release Date: 04/13/13

1319. RE: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 11:36:45 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1317 Message: 1319

I have a MFJ-998 auto tuner and use it with my Alpha 87A all the time that feeds a 260 foot dipole fed with ladder line to the house. Then it goes through a 4:1 balun and 5 feet of coax to the tuner.

What I don't like about the 998 is it will not tune on 40 meters unless I first switch to 160 meters on the transceiver and then send 20 watts of carrier and let it tune on 160. I then go to 40M and it tunes fine?

I talked to MFJ about this and they couldn't offer and explanation? My friends also acts like this at times different bands but somewhat similar.

It's not a show stopper now that I know how to get around this. I do have the latest firmware in the tuner and it is about 1 year old.

I would probably go for the Palstar.

George W2YJ

Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of JAMES
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:44 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using a MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.

Thank you for th help,

Jim
K5WLQ

1320. Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 13:00:36 UTC
From: Rick S
Topic: 1317 Message: 1320

Jim,

Since you have one of the finest amps ever built, you need the one of the finest tuners ever built. Take a look at the NYE-VIKING MB5-A.

Rated at 3KW its one of the best tuners around.

I have owned several and never an issue.

I know several folks who have burned up several MFJ (Mighty Fine Junk) tuners.

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George" <goofyham@...> wrote:
>
> I have a MFJ-998 auto tuner and use it with my Alpha 87A all the time that
> feeds a 260 foot dipole fed with ladder line to the house. Then it goes
> through a 4:1 balun and 5 feet of coax to the tuner.
>
> What I don't like about the 998 is it will not tune on 40 meters unless I
> first switch to 160 meters on the transceiver and then send 20 watts of
> carrier and let it tune on 160. I then go to 40M and it tunes fine?
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> I talked to MFJ about this and they couldn't offer and explanation? My
> friends also acts like this at times different bands but somewhat similar.
>
> It's not a show stopper now that I know how to get around this. I do have
> the latest firmware in the tuner and it is about 1 year old.
>
> I would probably go for the Palstar.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ
>
> Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of JAMES
> Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:44 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

>
>
>
>
>
> I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using a
> MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.
>
> Thank you for th help,
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
>

1321. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 13:35:17 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1317 Message: 1321

Rick;

Looks like the Nye Viking tuner you suggested is not an auto tuner? The original post I took as looking for an auto tuner. I could be wrong.

George W2YJ

Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rick S
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:01 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Jim,

Since you have one of the finest amps ever built, you need the one of the finest tuners ever built. Take a look at the NYE-VIKING MB5-A.

Rated at 3KW its one of the best tuners around.

I have owned several and never an issue.

I know several folks who have burned up several MFJ (Mighty Fine Junk) tuners.

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "George" <goofyham@...> wrote:
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> I have a MFJ-998 auto tuner and use it with my Alpha 87A all the time that
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> through a 4:1 balun and 5 feet of coax to the tuner.
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> What I don't like about the 998 is it will not tune on 40 meters unless I
> first switch to 160 meters on the transceiver and then send 20 watts of
> carrier and let it tune on 160. I then go to 40M and it tunes fine?
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> I talked to MFJ about this and they couldn't offer and explanation? My
> friends also acts like this at times different bands but somewhat similar.
>
> It's not a show stopper now that I know how to get around this. I do have
> the latest firmware in the tuner and it is about 1 year old.
>

> I would probably go for the Palstar.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ
>
> Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> Of JAMES
> Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:44 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner
>
>
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>
> I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using
a
> MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.
>
> Thank you for th help,
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
>

1322. Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 13:44:40 UTC
From: Rick S
Topic: 1317 Message: 1322

Hi George,

I have not found an AUTO-TUNER yet that works well.

The new Alpha 4040 looks like its built to handle anything. Hope they start shipping it soon. Have not heard any updates about it recently.

The Palstar has had some good reviews so maybe thats the way to go.

Hard to justify spending 1500+ bucks just to have an auto tuner.

You can buy 3 or 4 Nye-Viking tuners for that much!

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "George" <goofyham@...> wrote:
>
> Rick;
>
> Looks like the Nye Viking tuner you suggested is not an auto tuner? The
> original post I took as looking for an auto tuner. I could be wrong.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ
>
> Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of Rick S
> Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:01 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner
>
>
>
>
>
> Jim,
>
> Since you have one of the finest amps ever built, you need the one of the
> finest tuners ever built. Take a look at the NYE-VIKING MB5-A.
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> Rated at 3KW its one of the best tuners around.
>
> I have owned several and never an issue.
>
> I know several folks who have burned up several MFJ (Mighty Fine Junk)
> tuners.
>
> 73
> Rick
> W0RIC
>
> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> ,
> "George" <goofyham@> wrote:
> >
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> > I talked to MFJ about this and they couldn't offer and explanation? My
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> >
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> > the latest firmware in the tuner and it is about 1 year old.
> >
> > I would probably go for the Palstar.
> >
> >
> >
> > George W2YJ
> >
> > Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop
> >
> >
> >
> > From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
> Behalf
> > Of JAMES
> > Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:44 AM
> > To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> > Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >

> > I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using
> a
> > MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.
> >
> > Thank you for th help,
> >
> > Jim
> > K5WLQ
> >
>

1323. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-04-14 14:07:41 UTC
From: Fred Smith
Topic: 1317 Message: 1323

I would have to disagree with that the Palstar AT-4 & 5K are at the top of the pile for a manual tuner by far. For now the new Palstar HF-Auto is one of the best, but soon a new de facto standard for high end auto tuners will be in production the beta's are in the second stage of testing they are the Alpha 4040's. I have had mine ordered for some time and prepaid in full not just the $1 deposit required to get a count on pre-orders.

73,

Fred/N0AZZ

K3 Ser #'s 6730/5299--KX3 # 2573--K2/100--KAT100

P3/SVGA--KPA500--KAT500--W2

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Rick S
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 8:01 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner

Jim,

Since you have one of the finest amps ever built, you need the one of the finest tuners ever built. Take a look at the NYE-VIKING MB5-A.

Rated at 3KW its one of the best tuners around.

I have owned several and never an issue.

I know several folks who have burned up several MFJ (Mighty Fine Junk) tuners.

73
Rick
W0RIC

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com> , "George" <goofyham@...> wrote:
>
> I have a MFJ-998 auto tuner and use it with my Alpha 87A all the time that
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> carrier and let it tune on 160. I then go to 40M and it tunes fine?
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> I talked to MFJ about this and they couldn't offer and explanation? My
> friends also acts like this at times different bands but somewhat similar.
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> It's not a show stopper now that I know how to get around this. I do have
> the latest firmware in the tuner and it is about 1 year old.
>
> I would probably go for the Palstar.
>
>
>
> George W2YJ
>
> Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>] On
Behalf
> Of JAMES
> Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:44 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a%40yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] MFJ 998 Automatic antenna tuner
>
>
>
>
>
> I would appericiate comments positive or negative from anyone who is using
a
> MFJ 998 1.5 KW auto antenna tuner with a Alpha 87a.
>
> Thank you for th help,
>
> Jim
> K5WLQ
>

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2013.0.2904 / Virus Database: 3162/6243 - Release Date: 04/13/13

1324. Replacement of 3CX800A7's

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-12 15:08:01 UTC
From: ray.higgins25
Topic: 1324 Message: 1324

Lately the output of my 87A is down -- 55 watts + in to get full output on 10 & 17 meters .
Is using 55 -- 60 watts ok in on 10 &17 to
get full output (1500 w /CW). 87A was made in 1999.

Thx Ray

1325. What is the T/R LED for.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-13 10:51:09 UTC
From: jeff_king169
Topic: 1325 Message: 1325

Hello Group. Have searched the manual form front to back, and can find no information about when the T/R LED is supposed to light up? Can anyone please explain when / what circumstances make the T/R LED light?

1326. Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 473

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-13 17:43:09 UTC
From: catfishtwo@...
Topic: 1326 Message: 1326

what is your AC line voltage ?? tom N6AJR

In a message dated 5/13/2013 1:23:43 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time,
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com writes:

(http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlOGxxYmhkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHN
wSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTM2ODQzMzQ
xNg--)
_Alpha 87A Amplifiers Group _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZzlkYTdkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwO
ARzZWMDaGRyBHNsawNocGgEc3RpbWUDMTM2ODQzMzQxNg--)

1 New Message
Digest #473

1
_Replacement of 3CX800A7's _ (mip://0076d918/default.html#1) by
"ray.higgins25" ray.higgins25

Message

1
_Replacement of 3CX800A7's _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/1324;_ylc=X3oDMTJydDN1NXNqBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1
BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDM
TcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxMzI0BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzEzNjg0MzM0MTY-)

Sun May 12, 2013 8:08 am (PDT) . Posted by:
_"ray.higgins25" ray.higgins25 _
(mailto:rayhig@...?subject=Re:%20Replacement%20of%203CX800A7's)

Lately the output of my 87A is down -- 55 watts + in to get full output on
10 & 17 meters . Is using 55 -- 60 watts ok in on 10 &17 to
get full output (1500 w /CW). 87A was made in 1999.

Thx Ray

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:rayhig@...?subject=Re:%20Replacement%20of%203CX800A7's) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%20Replacement%20of%203CX800A7's) . _Reply via
Web Post _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJyaWgyczg3BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzI
xMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxMzI0BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawNycGx5BHN
0aW1lAzEzNjg0MzM0MTY-?act=reply&messageNum=1324) . _All Messages (1) _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/1324;_ylc=X3oDMTM2ZDd2MnVkBF9TAzk

3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxMzI0BHNlYwN
kbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzEzNjg0MzM0MTYEdHBjSWQDMTMyNA--) . _Top ^ _
(mip://0076d918/default.html#toc)

_Visit Your Group _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmY3M0azVkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnR
sBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEzNjg0MzM0MTY-)
_> _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmY3M0azVkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxM
DY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBH
N0aW1lAzEzNjg0MzM0MTY-)

_View All Topics _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/messages;_ylc=X3oDMTJnNWE0ZHMxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy
cElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOAR
zZWMDZG1zZwRzbGsDYXRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2?xm=1&m=p&tidx=1)
_> _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/messages;_ylc=X3oDMTJnNWE0ZHMxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy
cElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZG1zZwRzb
GsDYXRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2?xm=1&m=p&tidx=1)

_Create New Topic _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMjU1OHE0BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZW
MDZG1zZwRzbGsDbnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2)
_> _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMjU1OHE0BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZG1zZwRzbGsDb
nRwYwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2)

We are making changes based on your feedback, Thank you !
_Submit Feedback _
(mailto:ygroupsnotifications@yahoogroups.com?subject=Feedback on the redesigned daily
digest v4)
_> _ (mailto:ygroupsnotifications@yahoogroups.com?subject=Feedback on the
redesigned daily digest v4)

The Yahoo! Groups Product Blog
_Check it out! _ (http://www.ygroupsblog.com/blog/)
_> _ (http://www.ygroupsblog.com/blog/)

(http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlOGxxYmhkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycE
lkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTM2ODQzMzQ
xNg--)

_CHANGE SETTINGS _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/join;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMWlwNm12BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk
AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWM
DZnRyBHNsawNzdG5ncwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2)
_> _
(http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/join;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMWlwNm12BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElk

AzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNzd
G5ncwRzdGltZQMxMzY4NDMzNDE2)

_TERMS OF USE _ (http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/)
_> _ (http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/)

_UNSUBSCRIBE _
(mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe)
_> _ (mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe)

1327. Grid current fer 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-17 20:50:10 UTC
From: ray.higgins25
Topic: 1327 Message: 1327

I run my grid current @ 35ma yet the pix on the web site shows 50ma.
Is that OK ?

ynx Ray

1328. RE: [Alpha87a] Grid current fer 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-17 22:56:01 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1327 Message: 1328

If you are getting full output at 35ma then you have good tubes - they use to have special Eimac 3CX800A7 selected for low grid current. I don't recall the Y-xxx but they had a special designation

73 Jerry
KJOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ray.higgins25
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 16:50
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Grid current fer 87A

I run my grid current @ 35ma yet the pix on the web site shows 50ma.
Is that OK ?

ynx Ray

1329. Re: Grid current fer 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-18 20:29:42 UTC
From: ray.higgins25
Topic: 1327 Message: 1329

I guess the pix on the web site is misleading & the color pix from
Alpha is correct (it has the grid current @ 35ma fer full output --
which I'm getting)

Tnx Ray

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, "Jerry" <jsternmd@...> wrote:
>
> If you are getting full output at 35ma then you have good tubes - they use
> to have special Eimac 3CX800A7 selected for low grid current. I don't
> recall the Y-xxx but they had a special designation
>
> 73 Jerry
> KJOS
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@...m] On Behalf
> Of ray.higgins25
> Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 16:50
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Grid current fer 87A
>
>
> I run my grid current @ 35ma yet the pix on the web site shows 50ma.
> Is that OK ?
>
> ynx Ray
>

1330. Keep or Trade my 87A for a 9500 ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-22 16:40:36 UTC
From: jsternmd@att.net
Topic: 1330 Message: 1330

I am struggling (I am usually impulsive) whether to trade/sell my mint but 10+yo Alpha 87a that works perfectly for a 9500. I don't need the 4 antenna switching (I have the DAS plus two Station Pro II)and I hear ongoing stories about the 9500. I plan to retire at the end of the year, so while gainfully employed I figure now is the time to set up the shack for the next 20 years hihi.

If you had to do it all over again, would you rather buy a mint, well kept 87a for $4000 or a new 9500 for twice the price?

I guess some of you will view this question as nonsense but I am really wondering whether the 9500 really offers more legal performance, convenience, reliability over a long proven 87a. I was struck by someone who recently traded their 87a for a 9500 and they were looking to buy my 87a !!!

I have a shack full of Collins and Johnson boatanchors from the 1940's and 1950's that work great (with periodic maintenance) so am I giving up on my 87A too soon?

thanks in advance and please don't flame me :-)

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1331. RE: [Alpha87a] Keep or Trade my 87A for a 9500 ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-05-22 17:43:19 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1330 Message: 1331

I had a 9500 bought in mid 2010 as well as my 87A. I sold the 9500 and kept the 87A.

Some of the issues I had with the 9500 have been resolved, I understand.

My biggest complaint was noisy TR switching with QSK due to the vacuum relays. I had to use headphones, which I normally do anyway, to not hear the noise. I've been told that the TR board was modified to lower the noise, but it would have been an expensive upgrade for me. I've never had any problems with the PIN diodes in the 87A.

Less significant to me, though still a source of dissatisfaction, were the blower noise and transformer hum. The transformer hum was eliminated when I replaced the Hypersil transformer with a torroid one, which was a bit larger. I understand that the torroid transformer is now standard.

I did like the automatic tuning, which worked much faster and better than the AlphaMax in my 87A. My 87A has had some input SWR issues but the 9500 was fine in that respect. The 9500 seemed to have more gain; it was very easy to drive it to the legal limit. The Chinese tube worked well and is much cheaper than a matched pair of 3CX800A7s; that is a significant difference in my opinion though the 3CX800A7s usually last a long time and one might be able to find a good deal on replacement tubes, which I did.

I prefer the smaller size and slightly lighter weight of the 87A.

I wasn't using the automatic antenna switching.

RF Concepts and the predecessor companies have provided good service on my 87A and worked with me on my 9500 issues. I started with a 91b when they were first introduced and sold it because of noisy TR switching with its vacuum relay. I replaced it with a used 89, which I liked very much, but I sold it when I got a good deal on the 87A which was second hand but had never been used.

I recently bought an Elecraft KPA500 to go with my K3. I like the KPA500 very much and find it a nice complement to the 87A. I use the KPA500 most of the time now.

73, Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

I am struggling (I am usually impulsive) whether to trade/sell my mint but 10+yo Alpha 87a that works perfectly for a 9500. I don't need the 4 antenna switching (I have the DAS plus two Station Pro II)and I hear ongoing stories about the 9500. I plan to retire at the end of the year, so while gainfully employed I figure now is the time to set up the shack for the next 20 years

hihi.

If you had to do it all over again, would you rather buy a mint, well kept 87a for $4000 or a new 9500 for twice the price?

I guess some of you will view this question as nonsense but I am really wondering whether the 9500 really offers more legal performance, convenience, reliability over a long proven 87a. I was struck by someone who recently traded their 87a for a 9500 and they were looking to buy my 87a !!!

I have a shack full of Collins and Johnson boatanchors from the 1940's and 1950's that work great (with periodic maintenance) so am I giving up on my 87A too soon?

thanks in advance and please don't flame me :-)

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1332. link from paul glassman

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-06-08 07:25:37 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1332 Message: 1332

http://stagedoordish.com/xte.php

1333. Tuning for Max RF Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-07 14:50:50 UTC
From: jsternmd@att.net
Topic: 1333 Message: 1333

OK, I admit I have been very lazy with my Alpha 87A since I bought it 6 years ago. AlphaMax always seemed to do the trick with a perfect state of low grid current and full output with 45-55 watts. I took the advice of rotating sets of tubes each year. I just put back the old ones and they are indeed a bit softer than the NOS EIMACS I had put in last summer. Nevertheless these 'older' pair run great but I see require a bit more of fine tuning which I have never bothered with before. Following the manual tune instructions, I find that at around 20 watts of drive I can center the TUNE function nicely with low grid current and tune UP and DOWN essentially brings the amp to peak RF at that 20w drive. I next bring the drive up to get 1kw out and tune for maximum RF into an Alpha dummy load. However to get 1500w and low grid current (35ma or less) I find that the "Tune" meter function winds up 1-2 leds to the right of dead center. Now when I switch over to my OCF Dipole, the Amp needs virtually no further tweaking but the Tune meter LEDS still cannot be centered if I want full 1500. Is that to be expected or has my Tune circuit aged and the meter balance circuit is no longer accurate? IS this due to the aged tubes? I still love this 87A and decided not to trade up to the 9500 because it just works so easily and perfectly.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1334. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning for Max RF Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-07 14:58:56 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1333 Message: 1334

Mine exhibited the same behavior. When I asked Alpha about it, they stated that it was OK and that I should adjust for max out and that the LEDs were to be used only as a reference. mine was one or two off at peak output. Ran my 87a like that for many years without issue.

-rob N7QT

On Jul 7, 2013, at 7:51 AM, "jsternmd@att.net" <jsternmd@att.net> wrote:

> OK, I admit I have been very lazy with my Alpha 87A since I bought it 6 years ago. AlphaMax always seemed to do the trick with a perfect state of low grid current and full output with 45-55 watts. I took the advice of rotating sets of tubes each year. I just put back the old ones and they are indeed a bit softer than the NOS EIMACS I had put in last summer. Nevertheless these 'older' pair run great but I see require a bit more of fine tuning which I have never bothered with before. Following the manual tune instructions, I find that at around 20 watts of drive I can center the TUNE function nicely with low grid current and tune UP and DOWN essentially brings the amp to peak RF at that 20w drive. I next bring the drive up to get 1kw out and tune for maximum RF into an Alpha dummy load. However to get 1500w and low grid current (35ma or less) I find that the "Tune" meter function winds up 1-2 leds to the right of dead center. Now when I switch over to my OCF Dipole, the Amp needs virtually no further tweaking but the Tune meter LEDS still cannot be centered if I want full 1500. Is that to be expected or has my Tune circuit aged and the meter balance circuit is no longer accurate? IS this due to the aged tubes? I still love this 87A and decided not to trade up to the 9500 because it just works so easily and perfectly.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>
>

1335. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning for Max RF Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-08 02:29:57 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1333 Message: 1335

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A, the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax program would do if it was enabled.

You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and save the settings in USER memories. You do this by pressing ENTER and then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on. When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50 ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out, fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup
settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't really as
useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Sun, Jul 7, 2013 at 9:50 AM, jsternmd@... <jsternmd@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> OK, I admit I have been very lazy with my Alpha 87A since I bought it 6
> years ago. AlphaMax always seemed to do the trick with a perfect state of
> low grid current and full output with 45-55 watts. I took the advice of
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> longer accurate? IS this due to the aged tubes? I still love this 87A and
> decided not to trade up to the 9500 because it just works so easily and
> perfectly.
>
> 73 Jerry
> K1JOS
>
>
>

--
Glenn and Katie - OAC, NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-ISA, S-ISLA, S-ITA, S-BAA

1336. Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 05:45:19 UTC
From: w6ocl
Topic: 1336 Message: 1336

Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.

A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1337. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 12:32:57 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 1336 Message: 1337

Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: w6ocl
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.

A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1338. RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 13:40:56 UTC
From: Robert Fanfant
Topic: 1336 Message: 1338

I would have similar concerns. My amps always came back spotless.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: WA3GIN<mailto:wa3gin@...>
Sent: □7/□20/□2013 5:39 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: w6ocl
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

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A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1339. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 13:43:42 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1339

Dave,

I did call Alpha 3 times on 7/19/13, the person on the phone told me that the person that does the research of this type was not in and would be back on monday. I asked for Molly and was told that she is part of another department now.

From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:32 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel
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73,
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wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
>From: w6ocl
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
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>
>A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the
amps?
>
>

1340. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 13:48:08 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1340

In fact, as this gentleman disconnected the amp, the cord was full of cobwebs, and there was a screw missing from the side of the amp. I questioned both, and his answer was, "we have cats here, and we get a lot of dust, that is why the power cord is so dirty. As for the screw, i don't know why Alpha didn't put it back in". Later that evening after calling him a few times request a refund, he said, "the reason the screw wasn't installed is that i forgot to put it in after i got the amp back from Alpha from retubing it. I had to install the transformer and i just found it lying here on my desk". It seemed the more i talked to this person, the more he was burying himself in lie after lie.

During one of our last phone conversations, he ask, "what is it going to take to get you to keep the amp and drop the whole court issue?".

From: Robert Fanfant <rfanfant@...>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 6:40 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

I would have similar concerns. My amps always came back spotless.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: WA3GIN
Sent: □7/□20/□2013 5:39 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
>From: w6ocl
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
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>
>A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?
>
>

1341. RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 14:09:01 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1336 Message: 1341

Interesting OC.

George W2YJ

Sent from my Windows 8 Desktop

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of O.C.
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 9:48 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

In fact, as this gentleman disconnected the amp, the cord was full of cobwebs, and there was a screw missing from the side of the amp. I questioned both, and his answer was, "we have cats here, and we get a lot of dust, that is why the power cord is so dirty. As for the screw, i don't know why Alpha didn't put it back in". Later that evening after calling him a few times request a refund, he said, "the reason the screw wasn't installed is that i forgot to put it in after i got the amp back from Alpha from retubing it. I had to install the transformer and i just found it lying here on my desk". It seemed the more i talked to this person, the more he was burying himself in lie after lie.

During one of our last phone conversations, he ask, "what is it going to take to get you to keep the amp and drop the whole court issue?".

From: Robert Fanfant <rfanfant@...>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 6:40 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

I would have similar concerns. My amps always came back spotless.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: WA3GIN <mailto:wa3gin@...>
Sent: □7/□20/□2013 5:39 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----

From: w6ocl <mailto:w6ocl@...>

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM

Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.

A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1342. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 14:45:30 UTC
From: WA3GIN
Topic: 1336 Message: 1342

OK, so you wait till Monday. ALPHA is the premier manufacturer of high end ham radio equipment. They don't make crap and they certainly don't treat their stuff like crap either. Sounds like you didn't research the product, the company or the guy you purchased the amp from... you are probably screwed. ALPHA and HRO have been offering a re-sale of the older 87As for some time now with guarantees. No one in their right minde would purchase from an individual when such an offer exist. I hope you turn out to be lucky and just have some superficial cleaning to do... I wouldn't be surprised if the tubes were bad... most folks moved to the 9500 because the ALPHA 87A tubes were so expensive...

Good Luck,

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: O.C.
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 9:43 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Dave,

I did call Alpha 3 times on 7/19/13, the person on the phone told me that the person that does the research of this type was not in and would be back on monday. I asked for Molly and was told that she is part of another department now.

From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:32 AM
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dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: w6ocl
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

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A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1343. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 17:05:35 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1336 Message: 1343

Have you tested your Alpha 87A? Does it work? Is the grid current within specifications? Grid current is a reasonable predictor of tube performance. The genius of Dick Ehrhorn is very evident in the design, and performance is beyond expectation. If you don't mind my asking, what did you pay for your 87A?

On Sat, 20 Jul 2013 06:48:08 -0700 (PDT), "O.C." <w6ocl@yahoo.com> wrote:

>In fact, as this gentleman disconnected the amp, the cord was full of cobwebs, and there was a screw missing from the side of the amp. I questioned both, and his answer was, "we have cats here, and we get a lot of dust, that is why the power cord is so dirty. As for the screw, i don't know why Alpha didn't put it back in". Later that evening after calling him a few times request a refund, he said, "the reason the screw wasn't installed is that i forgot to put it in after i got the amp back from Alpha from retubing it. I had to install the transformer and i just found it lying here on my desk". It seemed the more i talked to this person, the more he was burying himself in lie after lie.
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>During one of our last phone conversations, he ask, "what is it going to take to get you to keep the amp and drop the whole court issue?".
>
>
>_____
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>To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 6:40 AM
>Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
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>>Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.
>>
>>A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?
>>
>>
>

1344. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 17:14:15 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1344

Dave,

IT's a valuable lesson. I have a feeling this gentleman will come through and return the cash as i have already begun legal proceedings. After all, he did sign the bill of sale which indicated that the amp had recently been at Alpha, AND had new tubes. I guess it's just easier to trust a fellow ham when you're standing in front of him vs someone wanting to sell you something only.

From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 7:45 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

□
OK, so you wait till Monday. ALPHA is the
premier manufacturer of high end ham radio equipment. They don't make crap and
they certainly don't treat their stuff like crap either. Sounds like you
didn't research the product, the company or the guy you purchased the amp
from... you are probably screwed. ALPHA and HRO have been offering a
re-sale of the older 87As for some time now with guarantees. No one in
their right minde would purchase from an individual when such an offer
exist. I hope you turn out to be lucky and just have some superficial
cleaning to do... I wouldn't be surprised if the tubes were bad... most folks
moved to the 9500 because the ALPHA 87A tubes were so expensive...

Good Luck,

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
>From: O.C.
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 9:43 AM
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>
>
>Dave,
>
>
>I did call Alpha 3 times on 7/19/13, the person on the phone told me that the person that does the research of this type was not in and would be back on monday. I asked for Molly and was told that she is part of another department now.
>
>

>
>_____
> From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:32 AM
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>
>
>
>
>Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!
>
>73,
>dave
>wa3gin
>----- Original Message -----
>>From: w6ocl
>>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
>>Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>>
>>
>>Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.
>>
>>A y one can validate that alpha
does/doesn't clean the
amps?
>>
>>
>
>

1345. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 17:19:38 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1345

Larry,

The amp was "shown" to be working while at this gentleman's house, only after he kept talking did the web of lies begin to emerge. I currently have the amp, but I'd rather not do anything further with the amp as i don't want to give him any excuse to say, "it was working when it left here, you must have plugged it in wrong or you fed it with too much power, or any other things possible".

I did research this thoroughly, especially Dick's videos.

He was extremely hesitant to drive the amp with more than 40watts as he said, the max drive power is 75 watts, which is not what Dick mentioned in his video when he demonstrated the amps protection circuitry. When he did drive it with 50 watts, the amp lite up one led past the 1.5 kw mark, but i did notice a hum in the background.

_____
From: Larry Dighera <larry@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 10:05 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Have you tested your Alpha 87A? Does it work? Is the grid current within specifications? Grid current is a reasonable predictor of tube performance. The genius of Dick Ehrhorn is very evident in the design, and performance is beyond expectation. If you don't mind my asking, what did you pay for your 87A?

On Sat, 20 Jul 2013 06:48:08 -0700 (PDT), "O.C." <w6ocl@...> wrote:

>In fact, as this gentleman disconnected the amp, the cord was full of cobwebs, and there was a screw missing from the side of the amp. I questioned both, and his answer was, "we have cats here, and we get a lot of dust, that is why the power cord is so dirty. As for the screw, i don't know why Alpha didn't put it back in". Later that evening after calling him a few times request a refund, he said, "the reason the screw wasn't installed is that i forgot to put it in after i got the amp back from Alpha from retubing it. I had to install the transformer and i just found it lying here on my desk". It seemed the more i talked to this person, the more he was burying himself in lie after lie.
>
>During one of our last phone conversations, he ask, "what is it going to take to get you to keep the amp and drop the whole court issue?".
>
>
>_____
> From: Robert Fanfant <rfanfant@...>
>To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 6:40 AM
>Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

>
>
>
>
>I would have similar concerns. My amps always came back spotless.
>
>Sent from my Windows Phone
>
>_____
> From: WA3GIN
>Sent: ?7/?20/?2013 5:39 AM
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>
>
>
>Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!
>
>73,
>dave
>wa3gin
>----- Original Message -----
>>From: w6ocl
>>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
>>Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>>
>>
>>Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.
>>
>>A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?
>>
>>
>

1346. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 18:07:52 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1336 Message: 1346

Alpha has the best customer relations in the business. Years ago I was purchasing a used 87A from an individual. I called Molly and asked her for the history of the amp. There was no money in this deal for Alpha however Molly spent 30 minutes on the phone with me advising me and giving advice. Due to her honesty and ham radio spirit of goodwill I not only have become a hard core loyal Alpha customer, I am a charter member of the "cult of Molly". By the way, I needed help tweaking my 9500. I got I touch with Brad at 10:30 p.m He was underneath his girlfriends car installing a new starter. Between scrapping the skin of his knuckles and dripping hot oil in his eyes he fine tuned my 9500. That was serious multitasking.

Best 73 Paul W8JN

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1347. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 19:01:36 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1347

Guys... thanks for all your advice. My main concern/question was, "could this have happened, would Alpha have NOT cleaned an amp, and is it likely that in 3 days, an amp would have been caked with dust inside". From what i'm hearing, Alpha is top notch. I know that as I have friends and elmers that rant and rave about alpha, that being said, i'm not new to Alpha. I just wanted to get other's opinions on any similar scenario. At this point, the seller has agreed, reluctantly, to take the amp back and refund my money. I hope no one else has to go through an experience such as this.

Many lessons in life, and this was another for me!!!

73

From: paul glassman <highschooldiving@...>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 11:07 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Alpha has the best customer relations in the business. Years ago I was purchasing a used 87A from an individual. I called Molly and asked her for the history of the amp. There was no money in this deal for Alpha however Molly spent 30 minutes on the phone with me advising me and giving advice. Due to her honesty and ham radio spirit of goodwill I not only have become a hard core loyal Alpha customer, I am a charter member of the "cult of Molly". By the way, I needed help tweaking my 9500. I got I touch with Brad at 10:30 p.m He was underneath his girlfriends car installing a new starter. Between scrapping the skin of his knuckles and dripping hot oil in his eyes he fine tuned my 9500. That was serious multitasking.
Best 73 Paul W8JN
Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>;
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>;
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
Sent: Sat, Jul 20, 2013 2:45:30 PM

□
OK, so you wait till Monday. ALPHA is the
premier manufacturer of high end ham radio equipment. They don't make crap and
they certainly don't treat their stuff like crap either. Sounds like you
didn't research the product, the company or the guy you purchased the amp
from... you are probably screwed. ALPHA and HRO have been offering a
re-sale of the older 87As for some time now with guarantees. No one in
their right minde would purchase from an individual when such an offer
exist. I hope you turn out to be lucky and just have some superficial
cleaning to do... I wouldn't be surprised if the tubes were bad... most folks

moved to the 9500 because the ALPHA 87A tubes were so expensive...

Good Luck,

73,
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
>From: O.C.
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 9:43 AM
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>
>
>Dave,
>
>
>I did call Alpha 3 times on 7/19/13, the person on the phone told me that the person that does the research of this type was not in and would be back on monday. I asked for Molly and was told that she is part of another department now.
>
>
>
>_____
> From: WA3GIN <wa3gin@...>
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:32 AM
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>
>
>
>
>Why don't you just call ALPHA give them the seriel number and they will email the repair history. You should have done that before your purchased the amp!
>
>73,
>dave
>wa3gin
>----- Original Message -----
>>From: w6ocl
>>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>>Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 1:45 AM
>>Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
>>
>>
>>Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I

called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.
>>
>>A y one can validate that alpha
does/doesn't clean the
amps?
>>
>>
>
>

1348. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 21:33:13 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1336 Message: 1348

The 87A is a well engineered amplifier. If it is operational condition, and you don't want it, perhaps the seller would sell it to me. I'd be interested if the price is right.

On Sat, 20 Jul 2013 12:01:36 -0700 (PDT), "O.C." <w6ocl@...> wrote:

> At this point, the seller has agreed, reluctantly, to take the amp back and refund my money.

1349. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-20 21:54:29 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1349

Larry, you are one bold ham. I don’t know the condition of the amp as I couldn't trust another word out of his mouth. Here's his latest comment after taking the amp back and returning my money. Remember, he told me the amp had just got back from Alpha on 7/16/13 from having new tubes put in. So, now he told me this, "I went to the house and found 2 new eimac tubes in the shipping box along with chimneys, I have already sold the amp to someone else for $5500.".

Now, as per the lady I talked to at Alpha on 7/19/13, she said, "we can not get any eimac tubes currently, haven't in a while and don't know when we will, as per the russian tube, we haven't had them sine April 2013".

On Sat, Jul 20, 2013 2:33 PM PDT Larry Dighera wrote:

>
>
>The 87A is a well engineered amplifier. If it is operational condition, and
>you don't want it, perhaps the seller would sell it to me. I'd be interested
>if the price is right.
>
>
>
>
>
>On Sat, 20 Jul 2013 12:01:36 -0700 (PDT), "O.C." <w6ocl@...> wrote:
>
>> At this point, the seller has agreed, reluctantly, to take the amp back and refund my money.

1350. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-21 00:58:43 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1336 Message: 1350

OC,
Consider yourself lucky that you received your money back. You can tell when your seller is lying. Watch his lips. If they move he is lying. Alpha is selling through HRO with factory warranty. $4500 mint as new. Seller to buyer no warranty mint $3800 $4200. $5500.... serious lie. Glenn never sends an amp out filthy.
You tied into a serious looser. Glad your story had a happy ending.
Best 73. Paul W8JN
Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

1351. Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-21 02:11:19 UTC
From: O.C.
Topic: 1336 Message: 1351

Thanks Paul!! Yes.. i too am happy that this fiasco is finished.

From: paul glassman <highschooldiving@yahoo.com>
To: "alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 5:58 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

OC,
Consider yourself lucky that you received your money back. You can tell when your seller is lying. Watch his lips. If they move he is lying. Alpha is selling through HRO with factory warranty. $4500 mint as new. Seller to buyer no warranty mint $3800 $4200. $5500.... serious lie. Glenn never sends an amp out filthy.
You tied into a serious looser. Glad your story had a happy ending.
Best 73. Paul W8JN
Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From: O.C. <w6ocl@...>;
To: <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>;
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha
Sent: Sat, Jul 20, 2013 9:54:29 PM

Larry, you are one bold ham. I don’t know the condition of the amp as I couldn't trust another word out of his mouth. Here's his latest comment after taking the amp back and returning my money. Remember, he told me the amp had just got back from Alpha on 7/16/13 from having new tubes put in. So, now he told me this, "I went to the house and found 2 new eimac tubes in the shipping box along with chimneys, I have already sold the amp to someone else for $5500.".

Now, as per the lady I talked to at Alpha on 7/19/13, she said, "we can not get any eimac tubes currently, haven't in a while and don't know when we will, as per the russian tube, we haven't had them sine April 2013".

On Sat, Jul 20, 2013 2:33 PM PDT Larry Dighera wrote:

>
>
>The 87A is a well engineered amplifier. If it is operational condition, and
>you don't want it, perhaps the seller would sell it to me. I'd be interested
>if the price is right.
>
>
>
>
>

>On Sat, 20 Jul 2013 12:01:36 -0700 (PDT), "O.C." <w6ocl@...> wrote:
>
>> At this point, the seller has agreed, reluctantly, to take the amp back and refund my money.

1352. RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha. would rate Alpha customer service at 100% satisfaction

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-07-21 07:31:56 UTC
From: jaking
Topic: 1336 Message: 1352

I purchased a second hand 87A in March 13 via HRO directly from Alpha. It arrived in 100% clean condition and was spotless. I have had a couple of questions about initial non function and Alpha's advice [from Glenn] has been generously given, focussed on the right information and immediately helpful. I would rate Alpha customer service at 100% satisfaction, a rating I have never given before. Alpha appear to service their legacy amps to the same standard as their current production models. 73s..... ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of w6ocl
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2013 5:45 p.m.
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.

A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1353. lost remote program for my Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-09-15 16:40:01 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1353 Message: 1353

I had a hard drive crash. Anyone know of the proper Alpha remote settings, baud rate? I've tried all my un-used com ports with 4800 and 9600 baud with no success.
Also I believe there is another more robust remote 87A program for remoting it does anyone know of this program?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1354. RE: [Alpha87a] lost remote program for my Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-09-15 16:55:43 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1353 Message: 1354

George,

4800/8/N/1.

My favorite program is HB9ZS's 87A control program. It interfaces with DXLab's Commander and N1MM so that changing the frequency on the radio changes the frequency in the 87A without transmitting.

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

73, Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

I had a hard drive crash. Anyone know of the proper Alpha remote settings, baud rate? I've tried all my un-used com ports with 4800 and 9600 baud with no success.
Also I believe there is another more robust remote 87A program for remoting it does anyone know of this program?
Thanks.

George W2YJ

1355. RE: RE: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha. would rate Alpha customer service at 100% satisfaction

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-09-17 22:27:00 UTC
From: <rfanfant@...>
Topic: 1336 Message: 1355

My amp came back very clean after it was serviced.

-rob N7QT

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

I purchased a second hand 87A in March 13 via HRO directly from Alpha. It arrived in 100% clean condition and was spotless. I have had a couple of questions about initial non function and Alpha’s advice [from Glenn] has been generously given, focussed on the right information and immediately helpful. I would rate Alpha customer service at 100% satisfaction, a rating I have never given before. Alpha appear to service their legacy amps to the same standard as their current production models. 73s..... ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of w6ocl
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2013 5:45 p.m.
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Recent amp visit to alpha

Has anyone recently sent their amp back to alpha. I ask cause I purchased an 87a today, the seller told me he had received the amp back from alpha on tuesday for tube replacement, blower replacement, and fan replacement. When I ask for a copy of the receipt from alpha for the work, he said alpha doesn't put it in the box any longer but sends it via USPS. I believed this and brought it home, but when I opened the amp, it was full of crackdown on dust. I find it hard to believe that alpha would send an amp back in that condition. When I called the seller, he said, alpha did clean it but that it got dirty again.

A y one can validate that alpha does/doesn't clean the amps?

1356. No RX when i switch to OPR / Normal RX in STBY

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-19 16:53:41 UTC
From: <f5ozf@...>
Topic: 1356 Message: 1356

Hello to All

I have a strange failure maybe you know where is my problem
in STBY mode i receive signal normally
when i switch in OPR no reception
maybe you can tell what i can verify

Thanks by advance for your help
Sincerely
Michel F5OZF

1357. Re: [Alpha87a] No RX when i switch to OPR / Normal RX in STBY

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-20 02:25:42 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1356 Message: 1357

It is possible that the key line from the radio to the amplifier may be shorting intermittently. This would cause receive loss when the amp is keyed into transmit but the radio is not. Try unplugging the cable from the RELAY jack on the 89 and see if there is still intermittent receive loss that you had before when switching the 89 to OPERATE.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 11:53 AM, <f5ozf@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello to All
>
> I have a strange failure maybe you know where is my problem
> in STBY mode i receive signal normally
> when i switch in OPR no reception
> maybe you can tell what i can verify
>
> Thanks by advance for your help
> Sincerely
> Michel F5OZF
> _
>

Glenn AE0Q

1358. RE: No RX when i switch to OPR / Normal RX in STBY

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-20 06:48:50 UTC
From: <f5ozf@...>
Topic: 1356 Message: 1358

Hello Glenn

Thank you for your reply

unfortunatly this is not it ! i have unplugged RCA connector problem still

I have unplugged and cleaning connectors inside because before i have fault 20
now fault 20 are ok

but i still with this my problem... i have recheck connector inside

Thank yo for your help

73 Michel

---In alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

It is possible that the key line from the radio to the amplifier may be shorting intermittently. This would cause receive loss when the amp is keyed into transmit but the radio is not. Try unplugging the cable from the RELAY jack on the 89 and see if there is still intermittent receive loss that you had before when switching the 89 to OPERATE.

On Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 11:53 AM, <f5ozf@... mailto:f5ozf@...> wrote:
Hello to All

I have a strange failure maybe you know where is my problem
in STBY mode i receive signal normally
when i switch in OPR no reception
maybe you can tell what i can verify

Thanks by advance for your help
Sincerely
Michel F5OZF

–

Glenn AE0Q

1359. Re: No RX when i switch to OPR / Normal RX in STBY

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-20 20:25:51 UTC
From: Butch Weber
Topic: 1356 Message: 1359

I had this same problem with my 87a. It was an open pico fuse near the PIN Diodes in the RF Cage.

Hope it helps,

Butch - WA4GIF

1360. customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-20 20:42:56 UTC
From: Robert Emory
Topic: 1360 Message: 1360

Hello Group,
This is my first post and it is a pleasure to send this message.
Recently my 87A and Alpha Power meter were affected my a
lightning strike nearby.
I contacted RF Concepts and they sent me a box and I returned
the amp and meter (meter in a different box!) and a week or so later
the amp and meter were returned and I am delighted and wish to
commend RF Concepts and the staff that work there for a very prompt
and efficient effort to repair and return my equipment.
Could not have asked for better service.
Bob (KD1CT)

1361. Re: [Alpha87a] customer service

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-10-20 21:26:33 UTC
From: wa3gin
Topic: 1360 Message: 1361

Ditto -- I received a call from ALPHA service offering to update my firmware for the 9500. We arranged a date and time for the call, the firmware update was painless and successful. I like these folks. We're lucky to have them building such fun equipment for us to play with and enjoy.

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Emory
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: michael@...
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2013 4:42 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] customer service

Hello Group,
This is my first post and it is a pleasure to send this message.
Recently my 87A and Alpha Power meter were affected my a
lightning strike nearby.
I contacted RF Concepts and they sent me a box and I returned
the amp and meter (meter in a different box!) and a week or so later
the amp and meter were returned and I am delighted and wish to
commend RF Concepts and the staff that work there for a very prompt
and efficient effort to repair and return my equipment.
Could not have asked for better service.
Bob (KD1CT)

1362. Tuners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-04 20:20:36 UTC
From: Peter
Topic: 1362 Message: 1362

I was recently lucky to buy an Alpha 87A and indeed I have been very happy with the amp and its performance. I am thinking of purchasing an antenna tuner, this will mainly be used for band edges. I was hoping group members may be able to advise which tuners I should be looking at.

Peter
VK3OJ

1363. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-04 20:28:00 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1362 Message: 1363

I've used the Palstar AT4K - very good tuner - good combination.

73

Joe
WD?M

On 11/4/2013 1:20 PM, Peter wrote:
> I was recently lucky to buy an Alpha 87A and indeed I have been very
> happy with the amp and its performance. I am thinking of purchasing
> an antenna tuner, this will mainly be used for band edges. I was
> hoping group members may be able to advise which tuners I should be
> looking at.
>
> Peter
> VK3OJ
>
>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1364. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-08 23:24:48 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1362 Message: 1364

I have the exact same tuner. Love it and works well with the 87A.

Jim

KBØX

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2013 2:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Tuners

I've used the Palstar AT4K - very good tuner - good combination.

73

Joe
WDØM

On 11/4/2013 1:20 PM, Peter wrote:

I was recently lucky to buy an Alpha 87A and indeed I have been very happy with the amp and its performance. I am thinking of purchasing an antenna tuner, this will mainly be used for band edges. I was hoping group members may be able to advise which tuners I should be looking at.

Peter
VK3OJ

<http://www.avast.com/>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus <http://www.avast.com/> protection is active.

1365. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-14 21:10:34 UTC
From: Peter
Topic: 1362 Message: 1365

Thanks for the reply Joe, much appreciated.

Regards
Peter

On Tuesday, 5 November 2013 7:28 AM, Joe <wd0m@...> wrote:

I've used the Palstar AT4K - very good tuner - good combination.

73

Joe
WDØM

On 11/4/2013 1:20 PM, Peter wrote:

>I was recently lucky to buy an Alpha 87A and indeed I have been very happy with the amp and its performance. I am thinking of purchasing an antenna tuner, this will mainly be used for band edges. I was hoping group members may be able to advise which tuners I should be looking at.
>
>Peter
>VK3OJ
>
>
>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

1366. Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-18 22:49:34 UTC
From: <dl8le@...>
Topic: 1366 Message: 1366

My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current, anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power nearly zero).Another ampl (YAESU VL1000) works properly at the same load. My FT1000 MP was running between 40 and 50 W output into the amp input.

Is there any idea for the possible reason? As the shipping from Germany to the US for repair is very costly and not easy I wonder if there is anybody who could provide some help or advise in order to avoid shipping the amp to RF Concepts and to get the amp repaired in Germany, Switzerland or Austria.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

1367. Re: [Alpha87a] Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-19 00:07:31 UTC
From: Ron Freeman
Topic: 1366 Message: 1367

Juergen,

I had the same issue a couple of years ago after 20 years of trouble free service--I'm the original owner of an early (circa 1990) ETO Alpha. My issue was "band switch alignment" which is not uncommon. I contacted Brad at Alpha and attempted to realign the bands switch via computer. Brad stayed on the phone and provided instructions. When that failed my amplifier was returned for repair and updates--its not necessary to ship the transformer. The service charge was very reasonable.

I suggest you write Brad.

73//k5mm/ron

> On Nov 18, 2013, at 4:49 PM, <dl8le@...> wrote:
>
> My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current, anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power nearly zero).Another ampl (YAESU VL1000) works properly at the same load. My FT1000 MP was running between 40 and 50 W output into the amp input.
>
> Is there any idea for the possible reason? As the shipping from Germany to the US for repair is very costly and not easy I wonder if there is anybody who could provide some help or advise in order to avoid shipping the amp to RF Concepts and to get the amp repaired in Germany, Switzerland or Austria.
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
>

1368. Re: [Alpha87a] Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-19 03:59:23 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1366 Message: 1368

Hello Juergen,

What is the fault number displayed on the blinking LEDS when the amp faults to standby?

This will tell us a lot more about how to help you troubleshoot the problem.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 4:49 PM, <dl8le@...> wrote:

>
>
> My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to
> transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off
> at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after
> this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't
> work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had
> switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the
> same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low
> output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the
> amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current,
> anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power
> nearly zero).
>

1369. 87A Fault 22

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-20 23:08:48 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1369 Message: 1369
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

The last three times I turned my 87A on, it came on for a couple of seconds then turned off. I have HB9ZS's program running, and it shows:

It's been working fine until now. Any thoughts?

73, Jim N7US

1370. problem with the Alpha 87 remote program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-21 00:36:42 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1370 Message: 1370

I use to use the Alpha 87A program to operate my Alpha remotely but lately
the program is not controlling the Alpha correctly.
I can turn the amp on with the remote program but cannot turn it off?
I can also go from stand-by to operate but cannot return to stand-by?
I can change bands and segments fine.
I turned off the amp manually from the front panel and un-plugged the amp,
waited 5 minutes and plugged it back in with the same results.
I bought this amp mainly because of it's auto tune and remote operation.
Anyone have any ideas.
Something is fishy?
Thanks

George W2YJ

1371. Re: [Alpha87a] problem with the Alpha 87 remote program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-21 01:19:07 UTC
From: Jason Lager
Topic: 1370 Message: 1371

Fault 22 is two little fuses. But mine was a fault 22 and it was two ribbon cables that faulted

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1372. RE: [Alpha87a] problem with the Alpha 87 remote program

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-21 01:27:03 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1370 Message: 1372

Jason;

I don’t have any faults? The amp works fine of course except for the remote operation.

Maybe you were not responding to my control software problem?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jason Lager
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 8:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] problem with the Alpha 87 remote program

Fault 22 is two little fuses. But mine was a fault 22 and it was two ribbon cables that faulted

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android <http://overview.mail.yahoo.com/mobile/?.src=Android>

From: George <goofyham@...>;
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>;
Subject: [Alpha87a] problem with the Alpha 87 remote program
Sent: Thu, Nov 21, 2013 12:36:42 AM

I use to use the Alpha 87A program to operate my Alpha remotely but lately
the program is not controlling the Alpha correctly.
I can turn the amp on with the remote program but cannot turn it off?
I can also go from stand-by to operate but cannot return to stand-by?
I can change bands and segments fine.
I turned off the amp manually from the front panel and un-plugged the amp,
waited 5 minutes and plugged it back in with the same results.
I bought this amp mainly because of it's auto tune and remote operation.
Anyone have any ideas.
Something is fishy?
Thanks

George W2YJ

1373. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Fault 22

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-21 21:08:44 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1369 Message: 1373

If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), or can indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown.

The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.

Another cause of the amp shutting down can be a shorted tube. You can test that by either removing the tubes, or by disconnecting the red HV lead from the left-rear corner of the HV power supply board. It will still get a fault, but should not be a hard fault.

Glenn AE0Q

1374. New 87a owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-22 02:19:34 UTC
From: <wa5yom@...>
Topic: 1374 Message: 1374

Just purchased an excellent 87A.....all updates and relatively new tubes....have powered it up..but have not put it on the air yet....maybe this weekend....any operations advice?

Tim
Wa5yom

1375. RE: [Alpha87a] New 87a owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-22 03:12:42 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1374 Message: 1375

It’s almost bulletproof if you put it into a <2:1 SWR load but work into dummy load first until you are familiar with its operation. You can use alphamax for most situations but you should get comfortable tweaking the load and tune manually. I find I can almost always improve on the alphamax setting into my OCF dipole. Finally don’t bother squeezing out the last 100w… it doesn’t get you anywhere and you’ll find it will outlast your other radios. I keep trying to find a reason to replace mine with a 9500 or ACOM2000a even with color remote but it just doesn’t make sense as they all do the same – virtually plug and play. I like to use Alpha87_CAT by HB9ZS to control it from my PC.

Enjoy it.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa5yom@...
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2013 21:20
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] New 87a owner

Just purchased an excellent 87A.....all updates and relatively new tubes....have powered it up..but have not put it on the air yet....maybe this weekend....any operations advice?

Tim
Wa5yom

1376. 40M ONLY BAND THAT NEEDS TO GET RETUNED EVERY TIME

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-22 17:14:25 UTC
From: Barry J Cohen
Topic: 1376 Message: 1376
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

My 87A has been working great what a piece of equipment.

Other than stray RF once and a while hitting the frequency counter or Remote line getting a fault the ONLY annoying problem I have had from DAY 1 when I got it about 3 years ago has been on 40M. The tuning does NOT stay firm and I have to retune EVERY time I go on 40M?

Anyone have a suggestion as most times when I go to the CW or RTTY portion instant fault and I have to retune every time?

Thanks

www.n2bj.com

1377. RE: Re: [Alpha87a] Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-23 22:50:16 UTC
From: <dl8le@...>
Topic: 1366 Message: 1377

Hello Glenn,

unfortunately my response took some time because I am at home not very often. So I could check again not before today: The fault number displayed is 17.

Some more observations:

1. TRX on 21.150, amp on 21; transmitting is causing the amp to switch to 28, fault 17 is displayed

2. TRX on 14.150, amp on 14, amp is working ...

3. TRX on 14.250, amp on 14; transmitting is causing the amp to switch to 18, fault 17 is displayed

4. Following the test on 14.250 the HB9ZS remote program shows: Frequency = 16380 khz, Band = 6, Segment = 1, Tune = 39, Load = 64; the Hard Fault Log showes that failure 37 occured 2x , Soft Fault Log showed failure 17 occured 8 times.

There is no difference if I use Alpha Max or not.

I hope that this information helps a little bit.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

Hello Juergen,

What is the fault number displayed on the blinking LEDS when the amp faults to standby?

This will tell us a lot more about how to help you troubleshoot the problem.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 4:49 PM, <dl8le@... mailto:dl8le@...> wrote:
My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current, anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power nearly zero).

1378. Re: Re: [Alpha87a] Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-24 04:26:41 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1366 Message: 1378

Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment:

The pot in the bottom of the 87A is to be adjusted as follows.

1. Place the 87A on it's right side.
2. Remove the bottom cover under the tubes.
3. Place the transceiver on 28mhz and adjust the power output to 5 watts.
4. Place the amplifier in the 160 meters position.
5. Put the pot in the full clockwise position to start.
6. Key the radio and adjust the pot counter clockwise until the amplifier changes bands then stop there.
7. Replace the covers and place the amp back flat on the table.

If the amp is still having problems changing frequency than the amp needs to be repaired. The problem is most likely on the frequency counter PCB and will need additional trouble shooting.

On Sat, Nov 23, 2013 at 4:50 PM, <dl8le@...> wrote:

>
>
> Hello Glenn,
>
>
> unfortunately my response took some time because I am at home not very
> often. So I could check again not before today: The fault number displayed
> is 17.
>
>
> Some more observations:
>
>
> 1. TRX on 21.150, amp on 21; transmitting is causing the amp to switch to
> 28, fault 17 is displayed
>
>
> 2. TRX on 14.150, amp on 14, amp is working ...
>
>
> 3. TRX on 14.250, amp on 14; transmitting is causing the amp to switch to
> 18, fault 17 is displayed
>
>
> 4. Following the test on 14.250 the HB9ZS remote program shows: Frequency
> = 16380 khz, Band = 6, Segment = 1, Tune = 39, Load = 64; the Hard Fault
> Log showes that failure 37 occured 2x , Soft Fault Log showed failure 17

> occured 8 times.
>
>
> There is no difference if I use Alpha Max or not.
>
>
> I hope that this information helps a little bit.
>
>
> 73
>
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
>
> ---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Hello Juergen,
>
> What is the fault number displayed on the blinking LEDS when the amp
> faults to standby?
>
> This will tell us a lot more about how to help you troubleshoot the
> problem.
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
> On Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 4:49 PM, <dl8le@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to
> transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off
> at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after
> this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't
> work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had
> switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the
> same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low
> output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the
> amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current,
> anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power
> nearly zero).
>
>
>
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,

OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-ISA, S-ISLA, S-IJA, S-ITA, S-BAA,
PD, APR, SPG, SPR, SPK

1379. RE: Re: Re: [Alpha87a] Improper Band Switching

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-24 11:04:52 UTC
From: <dl8le@...>
Topic: 1366 Message: 1379

Thanks a lot, Glenn. I will try this next weekend before I have to go back to China again.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment:

The pot in the bottom of the 87A is to be adjusted as follows.

1. Place the 87A on it's right side.
2. Remove the bottom cover under the tubes.
3. Place the transceiver on 28mhz and adjust the power output to 5 watts.
4. Place the amplifier in the 160 meters position.
5. Put the pot in the full clockwise position to start.
6. Key the radio and adjust the pot counter clockwise until the amplifier changes bands then stop there.
7. Replace the covers and place the amp back flat on the table.

If the amp is still having problems changing frequency than the amp needs to be repaired. The problem is most likely on the frequency counter PCB and will need additional trouble shooting.

On Sat, Nov 23, 2013 at 4:50 PM, <dl8le@... mailto:dl8le@...> wrote:
Hello Glenn,

unfortunately my response took some time because I am at home not very often. So I could check again not before today: The fault number displayed is 17.

Some more observations:

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2. TRX on 14.150, amp on 14, amp is working ...

3. TRX on 14.250, amp on 14; transmitting is causing the amp to switch to 18, fault 17 is displayed

4. Following the test on 14.250 the HB9ZS remote program shows: Frequency = 16380 khz, Band = 6, Segment = 1, Tune = 39, Load = 64; the Hard Fault Log showes that failure 37 occured 2x , Soft Fault Log showed failure 17 occured 8 times.

There is no difference if I use Alpha Max or not.

I hope that this information helps a little bit.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

Hello Juergen,

What is the fault number displayed on the blinking LEDS when the amp faults to standby?

This will tell us a lot more about how to help you troubleshoot the problem.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Nov 18, 2013 at 4:49 PM, <dl8le@... mailto:dl8le@...> wrote:
My nice 87A suddenly stopped working three weeks ago: when trying to transmit on 12 m (not locked, worked perfect before) the amp switched off at a very low output level of less than 50 - 100 W (red fault LED on after this). The fault number showed serious mismatch because band switch doesn't work or RF arc. Looking at the tuning section it appeared that the amp had switched to 10 m. Transmitting on other bands (e.g. 17 or 20 m) showed the same result, i.e. amp switching off at low input and subsequently low output level and the band section at the amp was at 10 m. The data of the amp before this failure happened were ok, i.e. grid current, plate current, anode voltage, tuning, output. The SWR is ok as well (reflected power nearly zero).

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-ISA, S-ISLA, S-IJA, S-ITA, S-BAA,
PD, APR, SPG, SPR, SPK

1380. Fault #6

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-28 06:16:36 UTC
From: <ken_800@...>
Topic: 1380 Message: 1380

Any idea on Fault #6? A friend of mine took the amplifier out after a very long time. It worked for a few days and now its shuts itself off within 2 min of initial warm-up.

1381. Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 495

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-28 14:23:43 UTC
From: Dale J.
Topic: 1381 Message: 1381

I just did a quick google and came up with this:

<http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/documentation/fault_codes.php>

According to the chart a fault six is abnormally high plate voltage. It is a hard fault so that would shut it down I believe.

Dale, k9vuj

On 28, Nov 2013, at 8:09, Alpha87a@...m wrote:

> There is 1 message in this issue.
>
> Topics in this digest:
>
> 1. Fault #6
> From: ken_800
>
>
> Message
> _____
> 1. Fault #6
> Posted by: ken_800@... ken_800
> Date: Wed Nov 27, 2013 10:16 pm ((PST))
>
> Any idea on Fault #6? A friend of mine took the amplifier out after a very long time. It worked for a few days and now its shuts itself off within 2 min of initial warm-up.
>
>
>
>
>
> Messages in this topic (1)
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> ---
> Yahoo Groups Links
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>
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> ---
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1382. RE: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 495

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-11-28 15:06:30 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1381 Message: 1382

Is this more likely to be a metering problem or a true HV going high problem?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dale J.
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2013 09:24
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 495

I just did a quick google and came up with this:

<http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/documentation/fault_codes.php>

According to the chart a fault six is abnormally high plate voltage. It is a hard fault so that would shut it down I believe.

Dale, k9vuj

On 28, Nov 2013, at 8:09, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:

> There is 1 message in this issue.
>
> Topics in this digest:
>
> 1. Fault #6
> From: ken_800
>
>
> Message
> _____
> 1. Fault #6
> Posted by: ken_800@... ken_800
> Date: Wed Nov 27, 2013 10:16 pm ((PST))
>
> Any idea on Fault #6? A friend of mine took the amplifier out after a very long time. It worked for a few days and now its shuts itself off within 2 min of initial warm-up.
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> Messages in this topic (1)
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> ----------------------------------------------------------
> Yahoo Groups Links
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1383. Lubricating the blower motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-04 17:31:14 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1381 Message: 1383

Has anyone got any information on the best way of lubricating the blower motor?
I'm thinking a squirt of LPS #1.

1897:
Radio has no future.
--Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society

Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1384. PIN Diode MA4P4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-14 11:22:57 UTC
From: Klaus Wagner
Topic: 1384 Message: 1384

Hi together,

anyone knows a cheap PIN Diode equal to the MA4P4006D ? I need this for a good friend.

Thanks!

Klaus DL1XX

1385. RE: [Alpha87a] PIN Diode MA4P4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-14 17:14:16 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1384 Message: 1385
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

None of the direct substitutes are inexpensive. I have only seen them for $125+ from Alpha or higher from other sources. I have a few MA4PK2003 that would likely work well but the screw stud is size 6-32 instead of the 4-40 size of the MA4P4006D or UM4006D. I got several of these for $75 each for another project. Attached is a picture comparing them, let me know if you want a pair.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Klaus Wagner
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2013 06:23
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] PIN Diode MA4P4006D

Hi together,

anyone knows a cheap PIN Diode equal to the MA4P4006D ? I need this for a good friend.

Thanks!

Klaus DL1XX

1386. Re: [Alpha87a] PIN Diode MA4P4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-15 19:03:31 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1384 Message: 1386

Perhaps this information may be or help:

<https://www.verical.com/partID/660830#_i_=4&searchCriterion=mpnIDs&searchName=&searchTerm=575448&landingPage=catalogItemView>
MA4PK2003
M/A-COM Technology Solutions
Diode PIN Switch 2KV 2-Pin Case 1080
Price: $71.70
Qty Available: 257
Minimum Order: 2

<http://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=1983>
MA4PK2003 MACOM Technology Solutions RF PIN Diode
Key Attributes Value
Diode Configuration Single Diode
Frequency Range : Minimum Frequency 1 MHz
Frequency Range : Maximum Frequency 100 MHz
Vr (Reverse Voltage) 2000 VDC
Total Capacitance 3.2 pF
Rs (Series Resistance) 0.1 O
Package Type ODS-1080
Availability 257
Quantity Unit Price
1 - 9 $66.33

<https://www.verical.com/partID/660830#searchCriterion=mpnIDs&searchName=&_i_=1&searchTerm=660830&landingPage=catalogItemView>
UM4006D
Microsemi
Diode PIN Attenuator/Switch 600V 2-Pin style D
Price: $41.70
Qty Available: 376
Order Minimum: 2

<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1204>
November 2012 discussion.

On Sat, 14 Dec 2013 12:22:57 +0100 (CET), "Klaus Wagner" <Klaus.Wagner@...>
wrote:

>
>Hi together, anyone knows a cheap PIN Diode equal to the MA4P4006D ? I need this for a good friend. Thanks! Klaus DL1XX
>

1387. No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 17:11:53 UTC
From: <wa4gif@...>
Topic: 1387 Message: 1387

Hello,

I just found out RF Concepts changed their support policy again. As of December 1st, they no longer provide any support at all for any legacy amp. Not even paid support. Before they had a free 10 minutes and then charge you for 15 minute blocks but no longer. So I'm sure glad this group is here! I have a problem that I'm hoping someone can help me with.

I had a problem where I was getting Fault 8 (Transmit PIN diode back bias below minimum required value key up) constantly immediately after warm-up. I troubleshot using the procedure provided here. It turned out to be two things, the first was three KS1001 Pin diodes were bad. Couldn't get any Pin diodes anywhere so remembered they had some in the RF Concepts store. Guess what, they don't have them anymore and they now sell the 1N4007 1KV Rectifier as a replacement for it. I bought some at the local Radio Shack and it still didn't work. I continued to troubleshoot and found the Q2 (FET) on the Input T/R board was bad preventing the -109V to switch. It stayed at -1.3 volts. Ok I replaced the transistor and now it works, Kinda!

I have no problem 40 meters through 10 meters. I get full output power but when I switch to 80 meters or 160 meters and transmit I now get a Fault 11 (Transmit PIN diode forward current exceeds maximum limit key down). After I clear this fault (Standby then Operate) it immediately cues up Fault 8 and stays there until I power down and repower up and wait for 3 minutes. If the amp is still in 160 or 80 meters I still get Fault 8. If during the wait period I shift the amp to 40 meters or above it works normal going into Operate.

Now I'm stumped a bit because it only faults on two bands and the diodes and transistor are still good. Anyone have an idea regarding this failure mode? I'd appreciate a good bit of steering in the right direction.

Also since the Pin diodes are no longer, are the normal rectifiers fast enough to replace them? They work but am worried that there still might be problems because of using them.

Keeping my fingers crossed that someone knows about this. If so, Please Help.

Best regards,

Butch - WA4GIF

1388. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 17:59:22 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck W6VY
Topic: 1387 Message: 1388

I can't answer your questions Butch but I have 4 new KS1001 pin diodes. Bought them as spares when I had an 89. Contact me off list if you are interested.

I know Alpha does not provide phone support any more and no repairs. Do they still provide email support? Not to clear to me from the statement on the website. Hope you find your answers here.

73
Bob W6VY

From: "wa4gif@..." <wa4gif@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 9:11 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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Best regards,

Butch - WA4GIF

1389. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 18:40:20 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 1387 Message: 1389

I don't think 1n4007's and PIN diodes are going to do the same things in the T/R circuitry. If you have the 1N4007's in there, maybe put the PIN diodes back in? Suggest going back through some old messages in this forum, I thought someone published some reasonable potential alternatives to the ones originally in the amp (same series of diode, but higher current rating); perhaps another message mentioned where (richardson electronics?) these diodes were available. Perhaps those more in the know could suggest a range of specs that might be appropriate for a replacement, in this application?
-Brian N9ADG

On Friday, December 20, 2013 9:59 AM, Robert Dorchuck W6VY <w6vy@...> wrote:

I can't answer your questions Butch but I have 4 new KS1001 pin diodes. Bought them as spares when I had an 89. Contact me off list if you are interested.

I know Alpha does not provide phone support any more and no repairs. Do they still provide email support? Not to clear to me from the statement on the website. Hope you find your answers here.

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Bob W6VY

From: "wa4gif@..." <wa4gif@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 9:11 AM
Subject: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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current exceeds maximum limit key down). After I clear this fault (Standby then Operate) it immediately cues up Fault 8 and stays there until I power down and repower up and wait for 3 minutes. If the amp is still in 160 or 80 meters I still get Fault 8. If during the wait period I shift the amp to 40 meters or above it works normal going into Operate.

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Best regards,

Butch - WA4GIF

1390. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 21:07:09 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1387 Message: 1390

No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.
Clyde, K2UE

1391. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 21:17:34 UTC
From: wa3gin
Topic: 1387 Message: 1391

Well let's see... do we demand the auto manufacturers maintain cars for 100 years, or Sears to maintain 20 yr old dryers. 20 year old amplifiers are antique amplifiers... give it rest! Lots of operators took advantage of the ALPHA buyback program and upgraded their antique 87As to new amps. I'd say ALPHA did us all a favor offering $4,000 or more for 20+ yr old 87As. Seems folks forget great customer service very quickly...

I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.

73.
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: k2ue@....com
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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Clyde, K2UE

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1392. my experience with my 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 21:44:14 UTC
From: Robert Emory
Topic: 1392 Message: 1392

Hello Group,
About a month or so ago we had a lovely lightning strike and my 87A would not even turn on.
I contacted RF Concepts, obtained an RMA number, sent the amp to them, they fixed it and it came home.
The charge, I thought, was reasonable and the work done was competent and quick.
I could not ask for better service from RF Concepts.
Just my $.02 worth.
Bob (KD1CT)

1393. RE: [Alpha87a] my experience with my 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 22:31:05 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1392 Message: 1393

Could you tell us what damage/damaged components took place?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Robert Emory
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 16:44
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] my experience with my 87A

Hello Group,
About a month or so ago we had a lovely lightning strike and my 87A
would not even turn on.
I contacted RF Concepts, obtained an RMA number, sent the amp to
them, they fixed it and it came home.
The charge, I thought, was reasonable and the work done was competent
and quick.
I could not ask for better service from RF Concepts.
Just my $.02 worth.
Bob (KD1CT)

1394. RE: my experience with my 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-20 22:53:48 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1392 Message: 1394

You are a lucky man. Last month you got a repaired radio -- this month you would have a paperweight. . .
Clyde, K2UE

1395. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 01:23:50 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1387 Message: 1395

Perhaps you could contact Glenn (Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...>) and contract the repair directly with him. I can't see where there would be any conflict of interest.

He certainly has the expertise and experience with the 87A. He might appreciate a little extra cash in these lean times, and you'd know the work was done right. Just a thought.

On 20 Dec 2013 09:11:53 -0800, <wa4gif@...> wrote:

>
> Hello,
>
>
> I just found out RF Concepts changed their support policy again. As of December 1st, they no longer provide any support at all for any legacy amp. Not even paid support. Before they had a free 10 minutes and then charge you for 15 minute blocks but no longer. So I'm sure glad this group is here! I have a problem that I'm hoping someone can help me with.
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>
> I have no problem 40 meters through 10 meters. I get full output power but when I switch to 80 meters or 160 meters and transmit I now get a Fault 11 (Transmit PIN diode forward current exceeds maximum limit key down). After I clear this fault (Standby then Operate) it immediately cues up Fault 8 and stays there until I power down and repower up and wait for 3 minutes. If the amp is still in 160 or 80 meters I still get Fault 8. If during the wait period I shift the amp to 40 meters or above it works normal going into Operate.
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>
> Now I'm stumped a bit because it only faults on two bands and the diodes and transistor are still good. Anyone have an idea regarding this failure mode? I'd appreciate a good bit of steering in the right direction.
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>

> Also since the Pin diodes are no longer, are the normal rectifiers fast enough to replace them? They work but am worried that there still might be problems because of using them.
>
>
> Keeping my fingers crossed that someone knows about this. If so, Please Help.
>
>
> Best regards,
>
>
> Butch - WA4GIF
>
>
>
>
>
>
>

1396. RE: [Alpha87a] RE: my experience with my 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 02:38:10 UTC
From: wa5yom
Topic: 1392 Message: 1396

Gee...my timing stinks.....I bought my 87a...just a few months ago....before I bought this one from an individual I was in discussion with RF Concepts about one they had for sale....They said nothing about discontinuing support....having that information would have had an impact on my decision.....

Tim
wa5yom

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad (http://overview.mail.yahoo.com?.src=iOS)

1397. RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 14:45:28 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1387 Message: 1397

Wow, I was going to remain mum on this until I saw this post.

First, comparing a piece of electronics for which the vast majority of parts continue to be made with 20 year old cars, washers and dryers is ridiculous.

Also, the buy-back program was a money maker for RF Concepts don't forget. At the time of the program 87A amps were selling used for around $4k. So they didn't do us a huge favor.

The 87a amp was one of their best sellers if not their best sellers of all time. So I can't imagine they couldn't have continued maintaining the 87a and make it profitable.

And I truly do not understand the last sentence at all…."go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amp….." What the hell does that sentence mean???

As 87a owners, we should all be upset because RF Concept actions decreases the value of all our amps now. Before we could tell a prospective buyer that the manufacturer continues to support this 20 year old amp. That carries a lot of weight for someone willing to pay $3k to $4k for a piece of ham gear.

Now, all we can say is….hey there is a Yahoo group who is very handy for answering questions.

I'm upset by this. So don't tell me or others on this group to "give it a rest."

Jim Walker

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

□

Well let's see... do we demand the auto manufacturers maintain cars for 100 years, or Sears to maintain 20 yr old dryers. 20 year old amplifiers are antique amplifiers... give it rest! Lots of operators took advantage of the ALPHA buyback program and upgraded their antique 87As to new amps. I'd say ALPHA did us all a favor offering $4,000 or more for 20+ yr old 87As. Seems folks forget great customer service very quickly...

I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.

73.

dave

wa3gin

----- Original Message -----

From: k2ue@...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.

Clyde, K2UE

<http://www.avast.com/>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus <http://www.avast.com/> protection is active.

1398. RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 14:53:55 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1387 Message: 1398

I concur with the posted thoughts on RF Concepts no longer supporting the 87A.

Would I have bought a used one in the spring of this year from them if I'd have known their stance a few months down the line, no!

Such a good Company and now they do this? I don't understand the fact that they cannot make money repairing these amps going forward.

In their defense it is an old but great amp and I guess some of the parts are no longer available. It doesn't make me feel any better though.

Oh well, life goes on and I suppose I'll get over it.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jim Walker
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Wow, I was going to remain mum on this until I saw this post.

First, comparing a piece of electronics for which the vast majority of parts continue to be made with 20 year old cars, washers and dryers is ridiculous.

Also, the buy-back program was a money maker for RF Concepts don't forget. At the time of the program 87A amps were selling used for around $4k. So they didn't do us a huge favor.

The 87a amp was one of their best sellers if not their best sellers of all time. So I can't imagine they couldn't have continued maintaining the 87a and make it profitable.

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Now, all we can say is….hey there is a Yahoo group who is very handy for answering questions.

I'm upset by this. So don't tell me or others on this group to "give it a rest."

Jim Walker

KB0X

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.

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dave

wa3gin

----- Original Message -----

From: k2ue@...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.

Clyde, K2UE

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1399. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 15:07:26 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1387 Message: 1399

"As 87a owners, we should all be upset because RF Concept actions decreases the value of all our amps now. Before we could tell a prospective buyer that the manufacturer continues to support this 20 year old amp. That carries a lot of weight for someone willing to pay $3k to $4k for a piece of ham gear."

You knew that when you purchased your 87A whether it was yesterday -- or almost 25 years ago. It's a part of personal "due diligence."

It's unreasonable to expect any level of support in perpetuity. There's a point where support will stop for any product. The last new 87A was likely sold 8-10 years ago. Try and get OEM support for any appliance that's of the same age. Invariably, secondary service markets are created. I suspect the same for legacy Alpha amps.

Moreover, do we know if it's only telephone/e-mail support that stops? Will RF Concepts still service legacy amps?

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Jim Walker
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM
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Jim Walker

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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Clyde, K2UE

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1400. RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 15:38:01 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1387 Message: 1400

Prices of 87A will come down and it should not surprise anyone if sometime in 2014 RF Concepts will do another round of 87A trade-in's for 9500 but at much lower values. I still would prefer to try to fix my 87A myself if possible as I do now with my Collins radios that are 50-60 years old. Like boatanchor repairs and restorations, you need similarly interested people to cluster together and support each other. I hope this continues here for the 87A.

Merry Xmas and HNY
73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:07
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

□
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Paul, W9AC

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From: Jim Walker <mailto:jim@...>
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Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM
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Jim Walker
KB0X
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
☐

Well let's see... do we demand the auto manufacturers maintain cars for 100 years, or Sears to maintain 20 yr old dryers. 20 year old amplifiers are antique amplifiers... give it rest! Lots of operators took advantage of the ALPHA buyback program and upgraded their antique 87As to new amps. I'd say ALPHA did us all a favor offering $4,000 or more for 20+ yr old 87As. Seems folks forget great customer service very quickly...
I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.
73.
dave
wa3gin
----- Original Message -----
From: k2ue@...
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.
Clyde, K2UE

<http://www.avast.com/>
This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus
<http://www.avast.com/> protection is active.

1401. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 15:52:31 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1387 Message: 1401

> "Prices of 87A will come down and it should not surprise anyone if sometime in 2014 RF Concepts will do another round of 87A trade-in’s for 9500 but at much lower values. I still would prefer to try to fix my 87A myself if possible..."

For folks like you and I, it may be a good thing if prices drop for some of the most well-designed amps ever made. If prices drop enough, we can keep spares from which to cannibalize parts (e.g., PIN diodes, ICs, power transformer). I do this now with Drake, Collins, and National gear.

Paul, W9AC

1402. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:09:07 UTC
From: <dj2001x@...>
Topic: 1387 Message: 1402

According to their FAQ they still do repair 87A amps. I copied this from the RF Concepts web site FAQ. They do want anyone contacting them to use their contact page.

Hope this helps

Dale, k9vuj

RF Concepts, LLC
634 South Sunset St.
Longmont, CO 80501

Alpha will repair any amplifier for 10 years from the date of manufacturer.

Schematics are available, and there are people around the world that have worked on Alpha Amplifiers. If you have a inoperable Alpha Amplifier which is not listed below, please contact us via the "contact us" section of the website and we will give you a current list of people we know of that are capable of repairing your amplifier.

We are looking for capable technicians worldwide to participate in our Factory Warranty program. If you are a qualified technician, we can add you to our list of people that repair legacy Alpha Amplifiers.

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Alpha 87A Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 45xx Wattmeter family
Alpha 2100 Dummy Load
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Plus any Alpha amplifier manufactured in the last 10 years.

Customers MUST call for a Return Authorization number and shipping instructions before sending amplifiers for repair. Tech time will be charged on an hourly basis in 15 minute increments at a rate of $160/hour. A minimum of $185 (1 hour Tech time, $25 Service Charge) plus return shipping will be charged to all non-warranted and voided warranty work. If we think the amplifier will cost more than $500 to repair, we will call you for authorization before starting work and give you an estimate. You will have to approve the estimate before work starts on your amplifier.

IMPORTANT - Before shipping any amplifier for repair, the transformer MUST be removed from the amplifier and the AC connector must be removed from the end of the power cord.

Do not ship the transformer or the AC connector to our facility.

Shipping charges to and from our facility are the responsibility of the customer. Our warranty does not cover shipping charges. The customer is responsible for shipping to and from our factory.

The only deviation from this rule is if something goes wrong with an amplifier within the first 30 days of ownership. If this happens, we will pay the shipping charges FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR SHACK, but its your responsibility to get the amplifier to us.

E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then please call us at 303-473-9232.

1403. "Delight the customer" (Was: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:24:51 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1387 Message: 1403

Dear Alpha 87A owners,

I respectfully suggest that we make those with the power to affect RF Concepts' policy of discontinuing support for the 87A aware of 87A owner's outrage at being orphaned.

In his comments below, Joe Jurneke begs our input:

~~~~~~

Date: Wed, 20 Feb 2013 23:29:02 -0500 (EST)

I started about a month ago, and we've already made some great changes that will help the "Delight the customer" attitude around here.

Hi folks, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Joe Jurneke, WB0PJZ
Good afternoon all!

My name is Joe Jurneke, and I am the new CEO for RF Concepts. ...

By all means, please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns....

Best regards,
Joe
WB0PJZ jurneke@...
303-473 9232

~~~~~~

The least RF Concepts might do is provide us with referrals to technicians with the skills to service our 87As.

This smacks of an ill conceived marketing ploy to force owners with broken 87As into the purchase of a new 9500 to generate revenue at the expense of customer relations and marketplace esteem. Disappointing....

"Delight the customer" indeed. That was something only Dick Ehrhorn was able to accomplish. <w0id@...>

"Nothing Else Is Even Close to an ALPHA 87A" <http://kj6yvt.com/amplifier.htm>

Best regards,
Larry Dighera

On Sat, 21 Dec 2013 10:07:26 -0500, "Paul Christensen" <w9ac@...> wrote:

>"As 87a owners, we should all be upset because RF Concept actions decreases the value of all our amps now. Before we could tell a prospective buyer that the manufacturer continues to support this 20 year old amp. That carries a lot of

weight for someone willing to pay $3k to $4k for a piece of ham gear."
>
>You knew that when you purchased your 87A whether it was yesterday -- or almost 25 years ago. It's a part of personal "due diligence."
>
>It's unreasonable to expect any level of support in perpetuity. There's a point where support will stop for any product. The last new 87A was likely sold 8-10 years ago. Try and get OEM support for any appliance that's of the same age. Invariably, secondary service markets are created. I suspect the same for legacy Alpha amps.
>
>Moreover, do we know if it's only telephone/e-mail support that stops? Will RF Concepts still service legacy amps?
>
>Paul, W9AC
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Jim Walker
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
>
> Wow, I was going to remain mum on this until I saw this post.
>
> First, comparing a piece of electronics for which the vast majority of parts continue to be made with 20 year old cars, washers and dryers is ridiculous.
> Also, the buy-back program was a money maker for RF Concepts don□t forget. At the time of the program 87A amps were selling used for around $4k. So they didn□t do us a huge favor.
> The 87a amp was one of their best sellers if not their best sellers of all time. So I can□t imagine they couldn□t have continued maintaining the 87a and make it profitable.
>
> And I truly do not understand the last sentence at all .□go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amp ..□ What the hell does that sentence mean???
>
> As 87a owners, we should all be upset because RF Concept actions decreases the value of all our amps now. Before we could tell a prospective buyer that the manufacturer continues to support this 20 year old amp. That carries a lot of weight for someone willing to pay $3k to $4k for a piece of ham gear.
>
> Now, all we can say is .hey there is a Yahoo group who is very handy for answering questions.
>
> I□m upset by this. So don□t tell me or others on this group to □give it a rest.□
>
> Jim Walker
>
> KB0X
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
> Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
>
> Well let's see... do we demand the auto manufacturers maintain cars for 100 years, or Sears to maintain 20 yr old dryers. 20 year old amplifiers are antique amplifiers... give it rest! Lots of operators took advantage of the ALPHA

buyback program and upgraded their antique 87As to new amps. I'd say ALPHA did us all a favor offering $4,000 or more for 20+ yr old 87As. Seems folks forget great customer service very quickly...
>
>
>
> I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.
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> 73.
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> dave
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> Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM
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> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
>
>
> No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.
>
> Clyde, K2UE
>
>

1404. RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:26:28 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1387 Message: 1404

Well then, either I didn’t read fully or the original release of information here on this forum was incomplete.

So, they will still repair an 87a on an RMA but they won’t support it on phone or email???? Is that what everyone’s interpretation is???

If that’s the case, then the impact on our amp’s value is much less than I originally believed.

My fault for not having or being presented with all the facts.

Jim

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dj2001x@...
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

According to their FAQ they still do repair 87A amps. I copied this from the RF Concepts web site FAQ. They do want anyone contacting them to use their contact page.

Hope this helps

Dale, k9vuj

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Longmont, CO 80501

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Alpha 8406 6 Meter Amplifier
Alpha 87A Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 45xx Wattmeter family
Alpha 2100 Dummy Load
Alpha 2000 Dummy Load
Plus any Alpha amplifier manufactured in the last 10 years.

Customers MUST call for a Return Authorization number and shipping instructions before sending amplifiers for repair. Tech time will be charged on an hourly basis in 15 minute increments at a rate of $160/hour. A minimum of $185 (1 hour Tech time, $25 Service Charge) plus return shipping will be charged to all non-warranted and voided warranty work. If we think the amplifier will cost more than $500 to repair, we will call you for authorization before starting work and give you an estimate. You will have to approve the estimate before work starts on your amplifier.

IMPORTANT - Before shipping any amplifier for repair, the transformer MUST be removed from the amplifier and the AC connector must be removed from the end of the power cord.

Do not ship the transformer or the AC connector to our facility.

Shipping charges to and from our facility are the responsibility of the customer. Our warranty does not cover shipping charges. The customer is responsible for shipping to and from our factory.

The only deviation from this rule is if something goes wrong with an amplifier within the first 30 days of ownership. If this happens, we will pay the shipping charges FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR SHACK, but its your responsibility to get the amplifier to us.

E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then please call us at 303-473-9232.

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/images/store/templates/common/spacer.gif>

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/images/store/templates/005/prt2_bl_b.gif>

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/images/store/templates/005/prt2_bl_m.gif>

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/images/store/templates/common/spacer.gif>

1405. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:26:48 UTC
From: Robert Dorchuck W6VY
Topic: 1387 Message: 1405

Dale,
Where did you find that on the web page? All I can find is this:

FAQ - General - Phone
Support Policy
For over 44 years,
we've continued to support every product we've built. In our newsletter dated March of 2013, we spoke of how difficult it is to find many of the parts that were used in our legacy amplifiers. It's
also difficult to provide phone support and repair services for amplifiers that haven't been built in over 10 years.

We will continue to
provide support for the 9500, 9510, 8410, 8406, 45xx, 2100 and the 2000 products.

We will not be
ordering any more parts, or providing any more support (other than the parts in stock on the website, and the information available on the website) for the legacy products. This means, if a part
is listed in stock on the website, and there is actually stock in house, we will gladly sell it to you. But, when the
parts are gone, they're gone.

Free email support
will still be provided for the products listed above. Email is the ONLY way to start a support
dialog.
You must fill out the
support form. We will answer the email
as soon as possible. If it's necessary
to communicate verbally, we will call you between 4:00 and 5:30, Monday through Friday, after setting a time via the support dialog you started.

There are absolutely
NO exceptions to this rule. Check this website for information on your question whenever possible.

Bob W6VY

From: "dj2001x@comcast.net" <dj2001x@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 8:09 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

According to their FAQ they still do repair 87A amps. I copied this from the RF Concepts web site FAQ. They do want anyone contacting them to use their contact page.

Hope this helps

Dale, k9vuj

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The only deviation from this rule is if something goes wrong with an amplifier within the first 30 days of ownership. If this happens, we will pay the shipping charges FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR SHACK, but its your responsibility to get the amplifier to us.

E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then please call us at 303-473-9232.

1406. Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:27:23 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1387 Message: 1406

It looks we humilated them in to changing their ill-advised policy. Some of us bought our 87A's from RF Concepts as Factory Refurbs in the recent past, and had a reasonable expectation of parts and service support -- indeed the price we paid was based on that expectation of support.
Clyde, K2UE

1407. NO MORE 87A SUPPORT-NO EXCEPTIONS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 16:51:45 UTC
From: <rickspiegel@...>
Topic: 1407 Message: 1407

It is confirmed that the Legacy Amplifiers will no longer be repaired by Alpha.

Hopefully, they will announce a "Legacy Repair" person we can contact at some point in the near future.

73
HAPPY HOLIDAY'S
Rick
W0RIC

FROM RF CONCEPTS:

"For over 44 years, we've continued to support every product we've built. In our newsletter dated March of 2013, we spoke of how difficult it is to find many of the parts that were used in our legacy amplifiers. It's also difficult to provide phone support and repair services for amplifiers that haven't been built in over 10 years.

We will continue to provide support for the 9500, 9510, 8410, 8406, 45xx, 2100 and the 2000 products.

We will not be ordering any more parts, or providing any more support (other than the parts in stock on the website, and the information available on the website) for the legacy products. This means, if a part is listed in stock on the website, and there is actually stock in house, we will gladly sell it to you. But, when the parts are gone, they're gone.

Free email support will still be provided for the products listed above. Email is the ONLY way to start a support dialog.

You must fill out the support form. We will answer the email as soon as possible. If it's necessary to communicate verbally, we will call you between 4:00 and 5:30, Monday through Friday, after setting a time via the support dialog you started.

There are absolutely NO exceptions to this rule. Check this website for information on your question whenever possible."

1408. RE: [Alpha87a] NO MORE 87A SUPPORT-NO EXCEPTIONS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:13:40 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1407 Message: 1408

How quickly things change. Just received the usual RF Concepts email which contains the following information:

RF Concepts, LLC
634 South Sunset St.
Longmont, CO 80501

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Schematics are available, and there are people around the world that have worked on Alpha Amplifiers. If you have a inoperable Alpha Amplifier which is not listed below, please contact us via the "contact us" section of the website and we will give you a current list of people we know of that are capable of repairing your amplifier.

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DO NOT remove the AC plug. We've found that some of the issues are how the plug was installed.

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from our factory.

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E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of rickspiegel@...
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:52 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] NO MORE 87A SUPPORT-NO EXCEPTIONS

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Hopefully, they will announce a "Legacy Repair" person we can contact at some point in the near future.

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HAPPY HOLIDAY'S

Rick

W0RIC

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1409. RE: NO MORE 87A SUPPORT-NO EXCEPTIONS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:13:47 UTC
From: <rickspiegel@...>
Topic: 1407 Message: 1409

FROM TODAY'S NEWSLETTER:
UPDATE QST QST QST

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1410. RE: NO MORE 87A SUPPORT-NO EXCEPTIONS

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:14:43 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1407 Message: 1410

That's wierd -- the language saying the 87A was still supported was on the website earlier today -- I looked after another poster quoted it. So we are screwed. And Merry Christmas to you too Mr hotshot CEO.
Clyde, K2UE

1411. Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:21:06 UTC
From: Paula
Topic: 1387 Message: 1411

Looks like Alpha has heard the masses and made a support policy adjustment. See hhttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairsttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs. The "LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty" includes our beloved 87A. Hooray and thanks!!

73 Paula k9ir

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <wa4gif@...> wrote:
>
>
> Hello,
>
>
> I just found out RF Concepts changed their support policy again. As of December 1st, they no longer provide any support at all for any legacy amp. Not even paid support. Before they had a free 10 minutes and then charge you for 15 minute blocks but no longer. So I'm sure glad this group is here! I have a problem that I'm hoping someone can help me with.
>
>
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> Keeping my fingers crossed that someone knows about this. If so, Please Help.
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> Best regards,
>
>
> Butch - WA4GIF
>

1412. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:32:35 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1387 Message: 1412

Good news on the 87A. It's the best amp I've owned in over 50 years of hamming.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paula
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Looks like Alpha has heard the masses and made a support policy adjustment. See hhttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairsttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs. The "LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty" includes our beloved 87A. Hooray and thanks!!

73 Paula k9ir

--- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <wa4gif@...> wrote:
>
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> Hello,
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> I just found out RF Concepts changed their support policy again. As of December 1st, they no longer provide any support at all for any legacy amp. Not even paid support. Before they had a free 10 minutes and then charge you for 15 minute blocks but no longer. So I'm sure glad this group is here! I have a problem that I'm hoping someone can help me with.
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> Best regards,
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1413. Modification of our thinking

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:35:10 UTC
From: Michael Seedman
Topic: 1413 Message: 1413

We modified the legacy amp repair policy. We've included the 87A and will be servicing all amplifiers that are less than 10 years old. Please take a look at the website at www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs for more information. Thanks to all that made their position known. We really do want to delight the customer and won't say no to any reasonable request.
Michael, AA6DY

1414. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:41:18 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1387 Message: 1414

Yeah, but that is only for amps manufactured 10 years ago or less. What about all of us that have 87as that are older than 10yrs old?? IE: 2001. Does anyone know if you have had your 87a completely gone through by Glenn before he left, will your amp be covered? If not. Guess were just SOL.

Just saying.

Cy / W5DXE

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: George <goofyham@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:32 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Good news on the 87A. It’s the best amp I’ve owned in over 50 years of hamming.

George W2YJ

From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paula
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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> Best regards,
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> Butch - WA4GIF
>

1415. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:46:28 UTC
From: Ron Freeman
Topic: 1387 Message: 1415

Exactly

> On Dec 21, 2013, at 12:41 PM, Cyrus Turner <cyrusturner@...> wrote:
>
> Yeah, but that is only for amps manufactured 10 years ago or less. What about all of us that have 87as that are older than 10yrs old?? IE: 2001. Does anyone know if you have had your 87a completely gone through by Glenn before he left, will your amp be covered? If not. Guess were just SOL.
> Just saying.
>
> Cy / W5DXE
>
> ==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========
>
>
>
> From: George <goofyham@...>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:32 PM
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
>
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> Good news on the 87A. It’s the best amp I’ve owned in over 50 years of hamming.
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> George W2YJ
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> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paula
> Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:21 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.
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> Looks like Alpha has heard the masses and made a support policy adjustment. See hhttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairsttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs. The "LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty" includes our beloved 87A. Hooray and thanks!!
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> 73 Paula k9ir
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> --- In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <wa4gif@...> wrote:
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1416. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:49:50 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1387 Message: 1416

Clarification is needed from RF Concepts:

I took this to mean amplifier models sill in production 10 years ago -- not any one specific amplifier made more than 10 years ago.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Cyrus Turner
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:41 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yeah, but that is only for amps manufactured 10 years ago or less. What about all of us that have 87as that are older than 10yrs old?? IE: 2001. Does anyone know if you have had your 87a completely gone through by Glenn before he left, will your amp be covered? If not. Guess were just SOL.

Just saying.

Cy / W5DXE

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: George <goofyham@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:32 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Good news on the 87A. It’s the best amp I’ve owned in over 50 years of hamming.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paula
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Looks like Alpha has heard the masses and made a support policy adjustment. See hhttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairsttp://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs. The "LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty" includes our beloved 87A. Hooray and thanks!!

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> Butch - WA4GIF
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1417. Fw: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 18:57:01 UTC
From: wa3gin
Topic: 1417 Message: 1417

Gosh Jim Walker,

I'm so sorry I seemed to have pushed your hot-button ;-) From reading your response I can see you are very upset with RF Concepts... I guess I'm getting some blow-back from your upset. For me this thread was a lot of hoopla on email when all that was needed was someone to call RF Concepts and ask for a clarification. They are very responsive and professionals -- they get customer service better than most. So, my comments were sort of tongue in cheek.

Last time I checked this was an open list serve. You opinion and mine carry about the same wieght ZERO!

I happen to own some 40 yr old vehicles and have had some old appliances too. These days you'll be lucky to find parts for a ten year old radio or a 13 yr old American made vehicle... regardless.

Its rediculous to assume a tiny company like RF Concepts would spend precious cash storing piece parts that would shortly stop being manufactured globally, but they did and they all got used up... TI imagine one reason RF Concepts stopped building the 'great' 87A was in part due to the shortage of unique components as well as the cost of the final tube...

Those folks that upgraded to 9500s got the message load and clear... those that purchased re-furbished 87As should have know they were rolling the dice if they were not capable of performing self-repair or spending several hundred dollars on shipping and repairs cost to maintain the legacy amplifiers.

OH WELL! I liked my 87A and I like the 9500. I'm glad RF Concepts is still in business.... no body over there is getting rich on amateur radio sales and bashing the hand that feeds you is an option, but not one I would choose.

Take it easy Jim and no need to get so emotional over a silly ham radio email comment. Its just a hobby ;-)

73,
dave
wa3gin

----- Original Message -----
From: Jim Walker
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Wow, I was going to remain mum on this until I saw this post.

First, comparing a piece of electronics for which the vast majority of parts continue to be made with 20 year old cars, washers and dryers is ridiculous.

Also, the buy-back program was a money maker for RF Concepts don’t forget. At the time of the program 87A amps were selling used for around $4k. So they didn’t do us a huge favor.

The 87a amp was one of their best sellers if not their best sellers of all time. So I can’t imagine they couldn’t have continued maintaining the 87a and make it profitable.

And I truly do not understand the last sentence at all….”go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amp…..” What the hell does that sentence mean???

As 87a owners, we should all be upset because RF Concept actions decreases the value of all our amps now. Before we could tell a prospective buyer that the manufacturer continues to support this 20 year old amp. That carries a lot of weight for someone willing to pay $3k to $4k for a piece of ham gear.

Now, all we can say is….hey there is a Yahoo group who is very handy for answering questions.

I’m upset by this. So don’t tell me or others on this group to “give it a rest.”

Jim Walker

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

□

Well let's see... do we demand the auto manufacturers maintain cars for 100 years, or Sears to maintain 20 yr old dryers. 20 year old amplifiers are antique amplifiers... give it rest! Lots of operators took advantage of the ALPHA buyback program and upgraded their antique 87As to new amps. I'd say ALPHA did us all a favor offering $4,000 or more for 20+ yr old 87As. Seems folks forget great customer service very quickly...

I'd rather see ALPHA continue to build new amps and products and stay viable than go out of business spending way too much time on folks that never should have bought an expensive amplifier they can't afford to sustain with factory service.

73.

dave

wa3gin

----- Original Message -----

From: k2ue@...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

No email support either -- I got a curt "no support" reply to an email. I replied that I would remember than when I'm shopping for another amp.

Clyde, K2UE

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

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http://www.avast.com

1418. RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 19:13:39 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1417 Message: 1418

Dave,

I viewed your post as much over the top and responded.

We each have our own views on things. You shared yours, I shared mine.

I do not need to take it easy as you advised as I am just fine.

As you have probably learned by now, everyone is now happy that RF has changed their mind.

Good day,

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wa3gin
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Fw: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

□

Gosh Jim Walker,

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:45 AM

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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Jim Walker

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Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 3:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] No more support at RF Concepts for Legacy Amps...87A Fault 11 & 8.

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----- Original Message -----

From: k2ue@...m

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:07 PM

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Clyde, K2UE

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1419. Re: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 19:16:16 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1413 Message: 1419

Well, As I said in my previous post. Guess were SOL then. IF we have one older than 10 yrs IE: 2003 or older. Mine BTW is an 2001.

Cy / W5DXE

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: Michael Seedman <michael@...>
To: "alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:35 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

We modified the legacy amp repair policy. We've included the 87A and will be servicing all amplifiers that are less than 10 years old. Please take a look at the website at www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs for more information. Thanks to all that made their position known. We really do want to delight the customer and won't say no to any reasonable request.
Michael, AA6DY

1420. Re: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-21 19:23:24 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1413 Message: 1420

"Alpha will repair any amplifier for 10 years from the date of manufacturer.

Schematics are available, and there are people around the world that have worked on Alpha Amplifiers. If you have a inoperable Alpha Amplifier which is not listed below, please contact us via the "contact us" section of the website and we will give you a current list of people we know of that are capable of repairing your amplifier."

At least they will give us Schematics and a list of qualified people to repair them.

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: Cyrus Turner <cyrusturner@...>
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:16 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

Well, As I said in my previous post. Guess were SOL then. IF we have one older than 10 yrs IE: 2003 or older. Mine BTW is an 2001.

Cy / W5DXE

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: Michael Seedman <michael@seedman.org>
To: "alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 12:35 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

We modified the legacy amp repair policy. We've included the 87A and will be servicing all amplifiers that are less than 10 years old. Please take a look at the website at www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs for more information. Thanks to all that made their position known. We really do want to delight the customer and won't say no to any reasonable request.
Michael, AA6DY

1421. Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 07:27:16 UTC
From: jaking
Topic: 1413 Message: 1421

I brought my 87A from Alpha 'RF Concepts" in August 2103. I paid $3,800 plus $800 shipping, plus $700 tax I brought after reading about

- After watching the promotional video with Dick Erehorn explaining what great amp it was, and the fact that the video was on Alphas site,

- The excellent list of available spare parts at reasonable prices,

- The fact that Alpha promoted they serviced Legacy Amps, even those made in 1977,

- The fact that they had capable people with knowledge to do the repair, and did repair the amps.

I genuinely expected that support would continue, because that was their stated company overall message about the quality of their product.

I accepted that i would have to pay $800 to ship the amp back and forth for repairs, and if the repair time was long the repairs would be expensive. I also accepted that I might not always be able to get the 3CX800A7, or the pin diodes. I did think for the diodes Alpha would offer repair with a vacuum rely replacement, which seemed a sensible option.

If I had brought another brand of amp new and paid $5,300 I would have expected to get about at east 3 years of repair support, with about 1 year under warranty.

If I had known Alpha would have done this I would have brought a 9500.

Why did I buy an 87A? Because I thought I was buying a quality product plus assurance of repair. I thought that was what Alpha offered that other manufacturers did not. [Like Rolls Royce does offer to service engines for decades, because it is quality product]

I genuinely believe Alpha should offer repair support for the 87A amps Alpha have sold or resold in the last 10 years. [Mine is a 1991 model.]

It is not reasonable to sell an expensive product with repair assurance and then just 5 months later stop the repair assurance. It is like you stole the reason for the person making the purchase.

With this level if instability in Alpha management thinking, If I proceed to but a 9500, how long will it be until it is suddenly announce that Alpha will only repair the 9500 for 1 year?

Please think about being reasonable to customers who have spent a lot of money directly with Alpha on buying an Alpha product from Alpha in the last 10 years.

Yours sincerely

ZL4AI

Author of the TS-940 page

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Michael Seedman
Sent: Sunday, 22 December 2013 7:35 a.m.
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking

We modified the legacy amp repair policy. We've included the 87A and will be servicing all amplifiers that are less than 10 years old. Please take a look at the website at www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs for more information. Thanks to all that made their position known. We really do want to delight the customer and won't say no to any reasonable request.

Michael, AA6DY

1422. Not a very techional ? Alpha screen saver.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 11:44:50 UTC
From: <kd4jzy@...>
Topic: 1422 Message: 1422

Hello

Alpha used to have a screen saver with I think an 87A in a Martini Glass. I deleted it many many years ago and have not been able to relocate the file again. If any one has it in their archives and would not mind sharing a copy It would be extremely appreciative of the help.

I emailed Alpha a few years ago and never received a response to my email.

Thanks You, Randy Pence/N4JZY

A highly pleased owner of an Alpha 99

1423. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 13:21:09 UTC
From: Tim Vandagriff
Topic: 1413 Message: 1423

I second that...however...I bought mine from an individual,,,,,,,but made the decision based on the same assumptions.....assumptions I discussed with RFConcepts.....they even researched the serial number.....
I purchased mine about 6 week ago.....($3850), I was considering one they were offering, but this one had been recently serviced with new tubes.
I would have definitely NOT made such an expensive purchase under the current circumstances....

Tim
wa5yom

>_____
> From: jaking <jaking@...>
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 1:27 AM
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises
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product plus assurance of repair. I thought that was what Alpha offered that
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proceed to but a 9500, how long will it be until it is suddenly announce that
Alpha will only repair the 9500 for 1 year?
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>Please think about being reasonable to customers who have spent
a lot of money directly with Alpha on buying an Alpha product from Alpha in the
last 10 years.
>
>
>Yours sincerely
>ZL4AI
>Author of the TS-940 page
>
>
>From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Michael Seedman
>Sent: Sunday, 22 December 2013 7:35 a.m.
>To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking
>
>
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won't say no to any reasonable request.
>Michael, AA6DY
>
>

>

1424. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 14:31:56 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1413 Message: 1424

Everyone is correct with their opinion. Try to get factory service on your 1957 whirlpool washer! You have the right to never purchase another Whirlpool product to protest their lack of support. You also have the right to purchase from Whirlpool knowing that they will have a limited support window for their products.
  Alpha had a "cult following" with Molly and crew. Those of us who were loyal to that mentality will probably move on to a different vendor. Those who simply like the product will stick with Alpha. There really is no debate here. I have not yet made a decision. I know that my vocal support of Alpha in the past was the final puzzle piece for several friends purchasing a 9500.

Paul w8jn

Quantum materiae materietur marmota monax
si marmota monax materiam possit materiari?

On Sunday, December 22, 2013 8:21 AM, Tim Vandagriff <wa5yom@...> wrote:

I second that...however...I bought mine from an individual,,,,,,,but made the decision based on the same assumptions.....assumptions I discussed with RFConcepts.....they even researched the serial number.....
I purchased mine about 6 week ago.....($3850), I was considering one they were offering, but this one had been recently serviced with new tubes.
I would have definitely NOT made such an expensive purchase under the current circumstances....

Tim
wa5yom

>_____
> From: jaking <jaking@....nz>
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 1:27 AM
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>From:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Michael Seedman
>Sent: Sunday, 22 December 2013 7:35 a.m.
>To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Modification of our thinking
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1425. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 14:35:38 UTC
From: <dj2001x@...>
Topic: 1413 Message: 1425

As I read and interpret it, Alpha (RF Concepts) stated they would include the 87A as it was listed along with the 9500 for repairs AND any other amp that is less than 10 years old. They didn't say anything about the 87A having to be less than 10 years old.

Dale, k9vuj

1426. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 16:55:54 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1413 Message: 1426

RF Concepts, LLC
634 South Sunset St.
Longmont, CO 80501

Alpha will repair any amplifier for 10 years from the date of manufacturer.

Schematics are available, and there are people around the world that have worked on Alpha Amplifiers. If you have a inoperable Alpha Amplifier which is not listed below, please contact us via the "contact us" section of the website and we will give you a current list of people we know of that are capable of repairing your amplifier.

We are looking for capable technicians worldwide to participate in our Factory Warranty program. If you are a qualified technician, we can add you to our list of people that repair legacy Alpha Amplifiers.

LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty:

Alpha 9500 Autotune Amplifier
Alpha 9510 Commercial Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 8410 160 - 10 Meter Amplifier
Alpha 8406 6 Meter Amplifier
Alpha 87A Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 45xx Wattmeter family
Alpha 2100 Dummy Load
Alpha 2000 Dummy Load
Plus any Alpha amplifier manufactured in the last 10 years.

Customers MUST call for a Return Authorization number and shipping instructions before sending amplifiers for repair. Tech time will be charged on an hourly basis in 15 minute increments at a rate of $160/hour. A minimum of $185 (1 hour Tech time, $25 Service Charge) plus return shipping will be charged to all non-warranted and voided warranty work. If we think the amplifier will cost more than $500 to repair, we will call you for authorization before starting work and give you an estimate. You will have to approve the estimate before work starts on your amplifier.

IMPORTANT - Before shipping any amplifier for repair, the transformer MUST be removed from the amplifier.

DO NOT remove the AC plug. We've found that some of the issues are how the plug was installed.

Do not ship the transformer or the AC connector to our facility.

Shipping charges to and from our facility are the responsibility of the customer. Our warranty does not cover shipping charges. The customer is responsible for shipping to and from our factory.

The only deviation from this rule is if something goes wrong with an amplifier within the first 30 days of ownership. If this happens, we will pay the shipping charges FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR SHACK, but its your responsibility to get the amplifier to us.

E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then
please call us at 303-473-9232.

www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repair

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

_____
From: "dj2001x@comcast.net" <dj2001x@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 8:35 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

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Dale, k9vuj

1427. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 18:35:35 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1413 Message: 1427

If RF Concepts thinks they have returned to status quo ante, they have misjudged yet again. Just as Lexus benefits from their refurbing program, in terms of bringing in new Lexus owners and supporting resale prices (and hence trade-in value), RF Concepts benefited from their trade-in and refurb program in the same way -- a simple way of saying our product is so good, and was so advanced, that our old model still commands a premium price and brings us new Alpha fans not ready to spring for the current model -- but if we treat them right, and their unit is resaleable, they may be new model customer tomorrow. That part is still gone, as is a good part of our units' resale value. Did they hire these people away from the ObamaCare website management perhaps?
Clyde, K2UE

1428. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-22 18:58:31 UTC
From: Tim Vandagriff
Topic: 1413 Message: 1428

The issue..IMHO....is not that the consumer expects that 20 year old technology should be supported by any manufacturer...it is that RF Concepts has historically supported all it's products..thus it was reasonable to conclude that they would uphold that policy as long as parts are available...To suddenly drop ALL support on legacy products could be considered a betrayal to that trust.....

Granted...they changed that policy..just about as quickly as they made it in the first place...which does not leave me with a very comfortable feeling.....

I am on the list for their new tuner...but not sure what I will do.

I had a Ten-Tec Omni V for close to 20 years....Ten-Tec just repaired it....Just recently they discontinued the Orion due to parts availability but they are continuing to support the product while they still have parts....They still provide support on most products.

RF Concepts will make whatever is the right business decision....and we as consumers can keep that in mind when we make our purchase decision....I know I certainly will.

Tim
wa5yom

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad (http://overview.mail.yahoo.com?.src=iOS)

1429. Re: No more support at RF Concepts for legacy amps

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 15:23:49 UTC
From: <bob.5b4agn@...>
Topic: 1429 Message: 1429

There are companies which found their reputations upon the durability of their products & the quality of their after sales service and there are companies founded upon lesser goals.

A good way to alienate the loyal customers of the former is to appoint a new broom CEO who walks through the door to announce an overnight transition from the former to the latter.

All businesses have to change to survive let alone prosper but when your business is built upon your customers trust you will continue to support your legacy products, a decision to withdraw from doing so needs a graduated approach.

A new CEO might be convinced the old business model is no longer viable. A good CEO would work to develop a plan for transition which doesn't trash the companies reputation overnight.

I bought my Alpha 87A new back in 1994. It still gives excellent service but I am looking to buy a second auto-tune amp. I have been carefully considering the 9500.

Having been stunned by the raw, "All bets are off." nature of this announcement, consideration of the 9500 has ended.

Bob, 5B4AGN

1430. Pass thru

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 16:15:17 UTC
From: Tim Vandagriff
Topic: 1429 Message: 1430

I am new to my 87A and am not sure about Pass-Thru.....Does the amp need to be powered up for proper pass-thru operation? I believe 100 watts was the max pass-thru power...Is hat correct?

Thanks,
Tim
wa5yom

>_____
>
>
>
>

1431. Re: [Alpha87a] Pass thru

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 16:30:17 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1429 Message: 1431

No need to power up - it will pass the transceiver through automatically. Although I've on occasion run up to 200 watts through the amp in the pass-thru mode(I don't see any limitation in the owners manual), I normally run 100 watts or less if I'm not using the 87a's power.

Welcome to the world of Alpha - great amps!

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 12/23/2013 9:15 AM, Tim Vandagriff wrote:
> I am new to my 87A and am not sure about Pass-Thru.....Does the amp
> need to be powered up for proper pass-thru operation? I believe 100
> watts was the max pass-thru power...Is hat correct?
>
> Thanks,
> Tim
> wa5yom

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1432. Good News for 87a owners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 19:35:47 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1432 Message: 1432

Update for Case #23016 - "Free Hat and Legacy Amps"
Hello,

Pam will order a hat for you. Please confirm your address.
We have revisited the policy and will continue to repair 87A amplifiers.
Regards,
Kathy

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

1433. News for 87a owners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 19:37:15 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1433 Message: 1433

Got this reply from RFC this am. Yeah we are safe.... for now :o/

Update for Case #23016 - "Free Hat and Legacy Amps"
Hello,

Pam will order a hat for you. Please confirm your address.
We have revisited the policy and will continue to repair 87A amplifiers.
Regards,
Kathy

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

1434. Re: [Alpha87a] News for 87a owners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 19:57:13 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1433 Message: 1434

Hopefully, the 89 is also included for reconsideration as it was part of the same product line with many similarities. Its design is less complex than the 87A and it includes fewer components that are at the end of their end-of-life cycle.

Paul, W9AC

1435. Re: [Alpha87a] News for 87a owners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-23 21:17:20 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1433 Message: 1435

We can hope so Paul.

Cy / W5DXE

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

From: Paul Christensen <w9ac@...>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 1:57 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] News for 87a owners

Hopefully, the 89 is also included for
reconsideration as it was part of the same product line with many
similarities. Its design is less complex than the 87A and it includes
fewer components that are at the end of their end-of-life
cycle.

Paul, W9AC

1436. Re: [Alpha87a] Pass thru

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-24 04:43:37 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1429 Message: 1436

The bypass power for the 87A is 150w, the TQ-2 input relay is the limiting factor.

See the 87A Manual version 2.0 on RF Concepts web site:

Page 10 and 11 Specify 150w bypass power. Earlier versions had the same spec on different pages.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Dec 23, 2013 at 10:15 AM, Tim Vandagriff <wa5yom@...> wrote:

>
>
> I am new to my 87A and am not sure about Pass-Thru.....Does the amp
> need to be powered up for proper pass-thru operation? I believe 100 watts
> was the max pass-thru power...Is that correct?
>
> Thanks,
> Tim
> wa5yom
>
>
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APS, APR, PD, SPG, SPK

1437. Re: Good News for 87a owners

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-24 14:52:24 UTC
From: Ed Privette
Topic: 1432 Message: 1437

That is good news. I have been an Alpha owner since Brooksville, FL. And an early 9500 owner who went back to an 87A. If the service ever stops for the 87A I'll go back to a manual amp like the AL 1500 or an old Henry. Like an old VW or MGA almost anyone can service it and there will always we substitute parts available. Sometimes older is better and a lot more fun! dipping the plate and increasing the load was not all that difficult to master.

Merry Christmas!

Ed, W4EP

1438. Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 13:09:39 UTC
From: Peter
Topic: 1438 Message: 1438

I am seeking to purchase four spare receive PIN diodes (KS1001) for my 87A. I see them appear occasionally on the forum and if you have some spares, I can be emailed directly.

Cheers
Peter
VK3OJ

1439. RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 13:24:14 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1438 Message: 1439

I think there are many looking for these PIN diodes as well the output PIN diodes.

What we need is to find a current source for these and then we'll all be good to go.

My friend who owns a 87A ordered two of these PIN diodes and Alpha sent him 2 silicone diodes I believe was numbered 1N4007 for the bias diode replacement.

We had one spare PIN diode and put that one in instead of the 1N4007 so we don't know how the silicone diode would perform. Has anyone put these in in place of the PIN's?

I would think a call to Alpha to confirm the successful use of these substitutes will work?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Peter
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 8:10 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

I am seeking to purchase four spare receive PIN diodes (KS1001) for my 87A. I see them appear occasionally on the forum and if you have some spares, I can be emailed directly.

Cheers

Peter

VK3OJ

1440. Re: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 14:30:22 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1438 Message: 1440

The 1N4007 _IS_ a PIN diode ! It is rated at 1000V, 1A. The KS1001 is rated at 1200V, 750mA. To date none of the 1N4007 diodes used to replace the KS1001 have had any failures.

Glenn AE0Q

1441. RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 14:33:57 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1438 Message: 1441

I have searched for spares for the past few years and they were as rare as hens teeth and >$100/piece. Now out of the blue, Arrow Electronics is selling the "DIODE PIN MA4P006D (OUTPUT PIN DIODE) DPX-X112 D1,D2" equivalent UM4006D for $41. They have a few hundred and I would recommend people pick up a spare pair now. As for the KS1001 - RF Concepts shows now the 1N4007 as the replacement. The KS1001 was specifically designed for HF switching with low harmonic and IM Distortion. I cannot find any specs for HF / RF performance for the 1N4007 plus there are so many different manufacturers I would suspect there will be differences in how these work for RF. Anyone have advice on the 1N4007 for this purpose?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 08:24
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

I think there are many looking for these PIN diodes as well the output PIN diodes.
What we need is to find a current source for these and then we'll all be good to go.

My friend who owns a 87A ordered two of these PIN diodes and Alpha sent him 2 silicone diodes I believe was numbered 1N4007 for the bias diode replacement.
We had one spare PIN diode and put that one in instead of the 1N4007 so we don't know how the silicone diode would perform. Has anyone put these in in place of the PIN's?

I would think a call to Alpha to confirm the successful use of these substitutes will work?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Peter
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 8:10 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

I am seeking to purchase four spare receive PIN diodes (KS1001) for my 87A. I see them appear occasionally on the forum and if you have some spares, I can be emailed directly.

Cheers
Peter
VK3OJ

1442. RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 14:49:49 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1438 Message: 1442

I contacted Arrow Electronics just now and they didn't know what I was talking about? They couldn't find the MA4P4006D?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jerry
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 9:34 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Cheers

Peter

VK3OJ

1443. RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 14:58:33 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1438 Message: 1443

Sorry I gave them the MA4 part number it should have been the UM4006D part number.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 9:50 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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George W2YJ

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Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 9:34 AM
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Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 08:24
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Cheers

Peter

VK3OJ

1444. RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 15:14:05 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1438 Message: 1444

It's listed as UM4006D on Arrows website- the specs I believe are identical to the MA4P4006D. You can compare the datasheets. Hopefully Glen will chime in and confirm. When I bought a pair from RF Concepts about 1 year they sent me another substitute UM2106D which is similar to UM4106D similar to UM4006D. The D suffix is critical as it specifies the stud screw and correct polarity.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of George
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 09:50
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

I contacted Arrow Electronics just now and they didn't know what I was talking about? They couldn't find the MA4P4006D?

George W2YJ

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Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Cheers
Peter
VK3OJ

1445. Re: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 15:18:52 UTC
From: wu2m@nycap.rr.com
Topic: 1445 Message: 1445
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1446. Re: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 15:33:34 UTC
From: wu2m@nycap.rr.com
Topic: 1445 Message: 1446
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1447. Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-27 18:41:24 UTC
From: Butch Weber
Topic: 1438 Message: 1447

I was told by an employee at Alpha that the 1N4007 are actually PIN diodes. Most people just don't know about that fact. I have not checked the data sheets yet to confirm but if they are fast as the KS1001 but if so they will be a good alternate part. They are only 1KV whereas the KS1001 are 1.2KV. I have four in my 87a and its working fine.

1448. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-28 03:54:38 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1438 Message: 1448

> "I was told by an employee at Alpha that the 1N4007 are actually PIN diodes. Most people just don't know about that fact. I have not checked the data sheets yet to confirm but if they are fast as the KS1001..."

The operation of a PIN diode is based upon slow carrier lifetime (similar to reverse recovery time [RRT]). The slower, the better - especially when T/R switching is needed as frequency is reduced. For a detailed explanation of PIN diode operation, see W2AEW's excellent on-line video.

I've never seen a carrier lifetime spec for a 1N4007 diode but it's easy enough to measure as W2AEW shows. However, the RRT for the 1N4007 appears quite good at about 30 uS.

Paul, W9AC

1449. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-28 04:21:31 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1438 Message: 1449

The 1N4007 datasheet from MCC in California shows a maximum RRT of 2uS:
Maximum Reverse Recovery Time Trr 2.0us IF=0.5A, IR=1.0A, Irr=0.25A

I cannot find any RRT in the Narda KS1001 datasheet.

Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul Christensen
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 22:55
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

> "I was told by an employee at Alpha that the 1N4007 are actually PIN diodes. Most people just don't know about that fact. I have not checked the data sheets yet to confirm but if they are fast as the KS1001..."

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Paul, W9AC

1450. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-28 04:42:29 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1438 Message: 1450

> The 1N4007 datasheet from MCC in California shows a maximum RRT of 2uS:

By contrast, General Semiconductor specs their 1N4007 diodes at 30 uS (RRT measured 1mA/20mA forward to reverse current ratio).

http://www.yt.ac.th/teacher/veerasak/DATA_SHEET/1N4001.PDF

Since there are many 1N4007 vendors, it pays to measure the device before placing it into high-power T/R service. The difference between 2 uS and 30 uS is a significant variance. Unlike general purpose diodes, PINs are designed for use in RF attenuation and switching applications and carrier lifetime is well-controlled.

Paul, W9AC

----- Original Message -----
From: Jerry
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 11:21 PM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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K1JOS

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Sent: Friday, December 27, 2013 22:55
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Paul, W9AC

1451. Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001). More thoughts on why the 1n4007 will be a suitable substitute

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-28 09:34:17 UTC
From: jaking@...
Topic: 1451 Message: 1451

The following links are interesting reading.

The 1N4007 switches
in about 1.5 microseconds.

Probably fast enough.

http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/diode_turn-on_time.htm [1]

http://www.qsl.net/ve3mcf/elecraft_reflect/Diode_IN4007_Notes.txt [2]

Remember that Glenn AE0Q

from RFConcepts, Cross Link and Alpha and
ET is probably the worlds most experts Technician on the 87A, has told
us significantly.

_TO DATE NONE OF THE 1N4007 DIODES USED TO REPLACE
THE KS1001 HAVE HAD ANY FAILURES._

This tells us unequivocally the
1n4007 has undergone substantial testing already and has a proven track
record.

What we do not know is how much beta testing has been so far
completed.

What Glenn has not told us yet is:

When RFconcepts
started using the 1N4007 as a replacement, and

How many 87As have so
far been modified with 1n4007s.

==========Butch Weber
tells us of a verified test==========

FROM:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] ON BEHALF OF
Butch Weber
SENT: Saturday, 28 December 2013 7:41 a.m.
TO:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
SUBJECT: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes
(KS1001)

1n4007..... are only 1KV whereas the KS1001 are 1.2KV. I have
four in my 87a and its working fine.

You could do two modifications to
improve the reliability of the 1N4007

1.

Install three 1n4007
diodes, to lower the voltage loading to 83% of that applied to the
KS1001.

Using 1,200 volts the KS1001 took as the max operating load,
means there were 600 volts applied per diode.

Take this as a factor of
safety of 1.0

If you installed two 1N4007 means the factor of safety
on overload would be 500/600 = 0.8

If you installed three 1N4007 means
the overload would be 500/400 = 1.2

2. Increase the power rating

Note also

1n4007 has current rating of 1,000 milli Amps, and power
rating to 1,000 milliwatts

KS1001 has current rating of 750 milli
Amps, and power rating to 1,000 milliwatts

This suggests the 1n4007 is
not under rated on power.

If you look at Microsemi's data sheet for
the recommended replacement UM4006, you will see the power rating
doubles by increasing the heat sink capacity.

You should be able to
put non conductive paste around the 1n4007 diode to boost its heat
dissipation, and increase power rating. Maybe by another 50%.

Look
forward to more discussion on this significant topic

Yours sincerely

Jeff ZL4AI

==========

FROM:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] ON BEHALF OF

Glenn AE0Q
SENT: Saturday, 28 December 2013 3:30 a.m.
TO:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
SUBJECT: Re: [Alpha87a] Receive PIN Diodes
(KS1001)

The 1N4007 _IS_ a PIN diode ! It is rated at 1000V, 1A. The
KS1001 is rated at 1200V, 750mA. To date none of the 1N4007 diodes used
to replace the KS1001 have had any failures.

Glenn AE0Q

FROM:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] ON BEHALF OF
Paul Christensen
SENT: Saturday, 28 December 2013 5:42 p.m.
TO:
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
SUBJECT: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes
(KS1001)

_> The 1N4007 datasheet from MCC in California shows a
maximum RRT of 2uS: _

By contrast, General Semiconductor specs their
1N4007 diodes at 30 uS (RRT measured 1mA/20mA forward to reverse current
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Paul, W9AC

----- Original
Message -----

FROM: Jerry [4]

TO: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [5]

SENT: Friday, December 27, 2013 11:21 PM

SUBJECT: RE: [Alpha87a] Re:
Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Jerry

K1JOS

FROM: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [6]
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] ON BEHALF OF Paul Christensen
SENT:
Friday, December 27, 2013 22:55
TO: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
SUBJECT:
Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001)

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Paul, W9AC

Links:
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[1]
http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/diode_turn-on_time.htm
[2]
http://www.qsl.net/ve3mcf/elecraft_reflect/Diode_IN4007_Notes.txt
[3]
http://www.yt.ac.th/teacher/veerasak/DATA_SHEET/1N4001.PDF
[4]
mailto:jsternmd@...
[5] mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
[6]
mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
[7]
mailto:w9ac@...?subject=Re%3A%20%5BAlpha87a%5D%20Re%3A%20Receive%20PIN%20Diodes%20%28KS1001%29
[8]
mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20%5BAlpha87a%5D%20Re%3A%20Receive%20PIN%20Diodes%20%28KS1001%29
[9]

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbDQ0MThyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEzODgyMDU3NTg-
[10]
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a/message/1438;_ylc=X3oDMTM1NmRzMDZyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNDUwBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTM4ODIwNTc1OAR0cGNJZAMxNDM4
[11]
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alpha87a;_ylc=X3oDMTJmZWtmbDQ1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzEzODgyMDU3NTg-
[12]
mailto:Alpha87a-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change%20Delivery%20Format:%20Traditional
[13]
mailto:Alpha87a-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email%20Delivery:%20Digest
[14]
mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe
[15]
http://info.yahoo.com/legal/us/yahoo/utos/terms/
[16]
mailto:ygroupsnotifications@yahoogroups.com?subject=Feedback%20on%20the%20redesigned%20individual%20mail%20v1

1452. Re: Receive PIN Diodes (KS1001). More thoughts on why the 1n4007 will be a suitable substitute

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-28 17:32:46 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1451 Message: 1452

PIN stands for P-Intrinsic-N, the addition on an Intrinsic Silicon layer between the P and N implants. It does two things: it increases the stored charge, making the diode look like a resistor when conducting, rather than a rectifier, because it is (hopefully) so slow at the frequency of application that all the charge cannot be swept out in one RF cycle, as would be case with a "good" diode; and it increases the breakdown voltage, which is very useful in power rectifiers (like the 1N4007). But the 1N4007 has been mad by probably hundreds of companies, in as many foundries, and is also optimized for thing like controlled avalanche, important in a power rectifier. So you should not blithely use ANY 1N4007 as a PIN replacement. SOME 1N4007's may accidentally have the properties necessary to be a good PIN, but ALL WON'T. When a 1N4007 is suggested as a PIN replacement, make careful note of the MANUFACTURER and EXACT PART NUMBER given. As an example, there are some fast recovery diodes that would exceed the specifications for 1N4007's as RECTIFIERS, but are optimized in exactly the WRONG direction for PIN use.
Clyde, K2UE

1453. The final words on repairs direct from Alpha

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2013-12-29 07:46:10 UTC
From: <paul@...>
Topic: 1453 Message: 1453

Here is the latest news from Alpha.

Paul G0HWC http://www.g0hwc.com

We received a lot of email about our new policy. To put it mildly, there weren't many "atta-boy's" in those emails. We've rethought our repair policy! Since we try to adhere to the "We say yes to all reasonable requests", you spoke and we listened! Since the last newsletter was emailed, we have received a lot of feedback from customers regarding our repair policy. What you've communicated has convinced us that we need to amend that policy and continue to offer repairs for some older Alpha amplifiers. Here's what you can expect from us and what we would hope to get from you.
We'll continue to fix our amplifiers as long as we can. We will continue to offer repairs on the Alpha 91b, 99, 89 and 87A amplifiers - as long as we can get the parts. We understand the microprocessor based amps are more difficult to repair without the special utilities and expertise we have to assist us. You will be patient if some parts (for example pin diodes on the 87A and 89) have a lead time of months. You will understand that we cannot keep dozens of old parts in stock and so there may be delays while they are ordered.
And most important - test your amp ahead of time! Make sure all is well with your amp with plenty time to determine the need for repairs. It's really difficult to quick turn some of these amps. Don't wait until the day before FT5ZM is on the air, or the day before CQWW gets underway, hi, hi.
All the best, and Happy Holidays,
Michael Seedman, AA6DY

1454. Fault Code 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-03 02:36:22 UTC
From: <srmuenich@...>
Topic: 1454 Message: 1454

Hi all,

Has anyone had any experience with a intermittent soft fault code 20?

It only happens when amp is on and idle. I clear it by switching to STBY the back to OPER..
Sometimes it make not happen again for minutes or even hours. Very random.

The manual says it might be a shorted tube filament. Amp works fine otherwise.

Thanks,
Steve

1455. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault Code 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-03 07:13:07 UTC
From: Sante - IK0HBN
Topic: 1454 Message: 1455

Hi Steve,
yes, my 87a does that since a lot of years! In my
case it's not a short on filament tube, but
probably a socket that time from time makes poor
contact. Check on socket near the bank of power
capacitors near the transformer. If I find on my
HD the original replay Glen gave me years and years ago, I'll send you.
Ciao for now
Sante
Open the amp, looking at it from front, the
socket is an orange one on the right side and it
works in orizontal instead of vertical direction.

At 03.36 03/01/2014, srmuenich@yahoo.com wrote:
>
>
>Hi all,
>
>
>
>Has anyone had any experience with a intermittent soft fault code 20?
>
>
>
>It only happens when amp is on and idle. I clear
>it by switching to STBY the back to OPER..
>Sometimes it make not happen again for minutes or even hours. Very random.
>
>
>
>The manual says it might be a shorted tube filament. Amp works fine otherwise.
>
>
>
>Thanks,
>
>Steve
>
>
>

1456. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault Code 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-03 07:19:00 UTC
From: Sante - IK0HBN
Topic: 1454 Message: 1456

Hi Steve,
Yessss I found it and I post you what Glenn wrote me on March 2006.
Ciao
Sante

" We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop the erroneous filament current readings.

Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube deck. Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power Supply) directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the bottom orange connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use Caig DeOxit contact cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those connectors to ensure a better contact.

Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control board. They are accessable through the slot in the top-right side of the front sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).

The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has aged and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial port you can use the following commands to see what the filament current is (they are always followed by the ENTER key):

Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and will let it accept the next command.

Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This will give you the filament current. It will read some filament current even when the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real' number because the tubes are turned off.
The fault limit is 4.0 amps.

When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory mode' so that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the microprocessor."

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

1457. Hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-04 19:25:14 UTC
From: Tim Vandagriff
Topic: 1457 Message: 1457

The last couple of times I tried to use the 87A on 17 meters.....SWR was fine...but it hard faulted to a code 37.....and simultaneously rebooted the computer.....

Any ideas?

Tim
wa5yom

1458. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault Code 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-04 21:27:12 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1454 Message: 1458

Hello Sante,

I have the 87a with the same exact problem here. I will follow the instructions.

Tnx, 73 Ted s52x

> On 3. jan. 2014, at 08:19, Sante - IK0HBN <ik0hbn@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Steve,
> Yessss I found it and I post you what Glenn wrote me on March 2006.
> Ciao
> Sante
>
> " We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop
> the erroneous filament current readings.
>
> Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the
> tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube
> deck. Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power
> Supply) directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the
> bottom orange connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use
> Caig DeOxit contact cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those
> connectors to ensure a better contact.
>
> Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control
> board. They are accessable through the slot in the top-right side of
> the front sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).
>
> The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has
> aged and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial
> port you can use the following commands to see what the filament current
> is (they are always followed by the ENTER key):
>
> Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and
> will let it accept the next command.
>
> Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This
> will give you the filament current. It will read some filament current
> even when the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real'
> number because the tubes are turned off.
> The fault limit is 4.0 amps.
>
> When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory
> mode' so that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the
> microprocessor."
>

> Glenn AE0Q
> Alpha Radio Products
>
>

1459. Re: [Alpha87a] Hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-04 21:38:08 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1457 Message: 1459

Fault 37 is the band switch fault. Try to unscrew the bandswitch holder screw on the bottom of the amp chassis.

73s Ted s52x

> On 4. jan. 2014, at 20:25, Tim Vandagriff <wa5yom@...> wrote:
>
> The last couple of times I tried to use the 87A on 17 meters.....SWR was fine...but it hard faulted to a code 37.....and simultaneously rebooted the computer.....
>
> Any ideas?
>
> Tim
> wa5yom
>

1460. Re: [Alpha87a] Hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-05 03:02:02 UTC
From: Tim Vandagriff
Topic: 1457 Message: 1460

Why would that suddenly be a problem?
Tim
Wa5yom

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad (http://overview.mail.yahoo.com?.src=iOS)

1461. RE: [Alpha87a] Hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-05 13:01:54 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1457 Message: 1461

I looked at my past faults and see a fault 37 indicated in my fault history file? I never paid any attention to it just re-set it and the 87A has been fine ever since?

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Saturday, January 04, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Hard fault

Fault 37 is the band switch fault. Try to unscrew the bandswitch holder screw on the bottom of the amp chassis.

73s Ted s52x

On 4. jan. 2014, at 20:25, Tim Vandagriff <wa5yom@...> wrote:

The last couple of times I tried to use the 87A on 17 meters.....SWR was fine...but it hard faulted to a code 37.....and simultaneously rebooted the computer.....

Any ideas?

Tim

wa5yom

1462. Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 17:58:04 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1462 Message: 1462

Mine bit the dust this weekend in the Roundup... I was only pushing 1KW, but my motor has been noisy for a while. It stopped and the amp self protected and faulted as designed.

I have ordered a new blower motor assembly from RF Products. My query is simple, do I need any additional parts or connectors? Also, are there any tips to make the job easier. I have downloaded and studied the PDF. It looks easy enough, except for a couple of screws where a right angle screwdriver may be useful. That's always a tip-off that maybe a few choice words are also needed.

Any help while be greatly appreciated.

HNY & 73
Ken-W9KB

1463. Re: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 18:02:26 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1462 Message: 1463

The PDF file includes pictures of my change out of the 87a blower - I helped rewrite the steps involved and provided it to Alpha. Take your time, and it's not too hard to do. I used a cell phone camera to take pictures as I went through the procedure so I could get things back in the right places. As you noted, there are a couple of places where very small fingers would be handy...

73,
Joe
WDØM

On 1/6/2014 10:58 AM, kbills@... wrote:
>
> Mine bit the dust this weekend in the Roundup... I was only pushing
> 1KW, but my motor has been noisy for a while. It stopped and the amp
> self protected and faulted as designed.
>
>
> I have ordered a new blower motor assembly from RF Products. My query
> is simple, do I need any additional parts or connectors? Also, are
> there any tips to make the job easier. I have downloaded and studied
> the PDF. It looks easy enough, except for a couple of screws where a
> right angle screwdriver may be useful. That's always a tip-off that
> maybe a few choice words are also needed.
>
>
> Any help while be greatly appreciated.
>
>
> HNY & 73
>
> Ken-W9KB
>
>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1464. Re: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 18:24:17 UTC
From: paul glassman
Topic: 1462 Message: 1464

Ken,
  A known issue with 87a's is the rubber or foam shock absorbers on the blower becomes deformed and the fan impacts metal in its area. You end up with a high speed clatter. There is a fix. Call Glenn or Brad.
       Regards Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1465. RE: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 18:32:17 UTC
From: Rick Kourey
Topic: 1462 Message: 1465

Ken,

Where do I find the PDF for the installation of a new blower?

Rick Kourey (K4KL)

Marvin/Charlotte, NC

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kbills@...m
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Mine bit the dust this weekend in the Roundup... I was only pushing 1KW, but my motor has been noisy for a while. It stopped and the amp self protected and faulted as designed.

I have ordered a new blower motor assembly from RF Products. My query is simple, do I need any additional parts or connectors? Also, are there any tips to make the job easier. I have downloaded and studied the PDF. It looks easy enough, except for a couple of screws where a right angle screwdriver may be useful. That's always a tip-off that maybe a few choice words are also needed.

Any help while be greatly appreciated.

HNY & 73

Ken-W9KB

1466. Re: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 18:35:49 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1462 Message: 1466

Hi Rick,

You can find the blower replacement document at this location, about 1/3
of the way down the page:

http://www.rfconcepts.com/REPLACEMENT-PARTS-LISTED-BY-ALPHA-PRODUCT/Alpha-87a-Parts

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 1/6/2014 11:32 AM, Rick Kourey wrote:
>
> Ken,
>
> Where do I find the PDF for the installation of a new blower?
>
> *Rick Kourey (K4KL)*
>
> Marvin/Charlotte, NC
>
> *From:*Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *kbills@...
> *Sent:* Monday, January 6, 2014 12:58 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor
>
> Mine bit the dust this weekend in the Roundup... I was only pushing
> 1KW, but my motor has been noisy for a while. It stopped and the amp
> self protected and faulted as designed.
>
> I have ordered a new blower motor assembly from RF Products. My query
> is simple, do I need any additional parts or connectors? Also, are
> there any tips to make the job easier. I have downloaded and studied
> the PDF. It looks easy enough, except for a couple of screws where a
> right angle screwdriver may be useful. That's always a tip-off that
> maybe a few choice words are also needed.
>
> Any help while be greatly appreciated.
>
> HNY & 73
>
> Ken-W9KB
>
>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1467. Re: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 19:23:44 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1462 Message: 1467

Joe, I have only found one document in the Files section... it only has sketches, no photos.

Can you email a copy?

kbills(at)yahoo.com

Thanks & 73
Ken-W9KB

1468. Re: [Alpha87a] Stalled Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-06 19:32:34 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1462 Message: 1468

Happy to Ken - sent to your address below. The procedure has lots of diagrams and descriptions, and the photo is toward the last page.

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 1/6/2014 12:23 PM, kbills@... wrote:
>
> Joe, I have only found one document in the Files section... it only
> has sketches, no photos.
>
>
> Can you email a copy?
>
>
> kbills(at)yahoo.com
>
>
> Thanks & 73
>
> Ken-W9KB
>
>

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
http://www.avast.com

1469. Photo Album - Blower Replacement Pix

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-07 16:46:19 UTC
From: <wd0m@...>
Topic: 1469 Message: 1469

I uploaded 20 pictures taken during the blower replacement process on my 87a in 2004. They represent pictures taken during several stages throughout the process. It was my attempt to make sure everything went back together as Alpha intended. Although they may not be in procedural sequence in the album, they are there if you need a reference.

Hope that helps...

73,

Joe
WDØM

1470. RE: Photo Album - Blower Replacement Pix

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-07 18:24:45 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1469 Message: 1470

Joe, Thanks for the photos, they give me a good sense of the project.

73
Ken-W9KB

1471. HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-10 19:32:12 UTC
From: <johnstarr2013@...>
Topic: 1471 Message: 1471

I bought a used 87a and it has a dedicated 220v short run supply. I made sure the xfrm was strapped correctly. I find my HV LED readout sags with full power peaks pretty dramatically and have as hard time achieving 1500W peaks on a more than one good powermeter. I have checked my AC line and therre is no appreciable sag on Xmit. I know the tubes are good as they came from another amp where they easily can put out 1600w. So I figure its the HV caps that need to be replaced. I dont see RF Concetps having these caps on the legacy parts page anymore. Before I open up the amp to sit on my workbench for many weeks while i track down replacements, does anyone know the cap screw stud dimensions? For the pictures i have seen are these standard 1/2" spacing?

thanks
john

1472. Re: [Alpha87a] HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-11 00:37:21 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1471 Message: 1472

According to their web site the capacitors used in the 87a and the 89 are readily from RF Concepts. Part number CEX 1092-f ,$30 ea.10000 uf @ 30 v

Mouser Electronics has the same type computer grade capacitors for $26.52 ea. Non-stocked With a 14 week lead time

johnstarr2013@yahoo.com wrote:

>I bought a used 87a and it has a dedicated 220v short run supply. I made sure the xfrm was strapped correctly. I find my HV LED readout sags with full power peaks pretty dramatically and have as hard time achieving 1500W peaks on a more than one good powermeter. I have checked my AC line and therre is no appreciable sag on Xmit. I know the tubes are good as they came from another amp where they easily can put out 1600w. So I figure its the HV caps that need to be replaced. I dont see RF Concetps having these caps on the legacy parts page anymore. Before I open up the amp to sit on my workbench for many weeks while i track down replacements, does anyone know the cap screw stud dimensions? For the pictures i have seen are these standard 1/2" spacing?
>
>thanks
>john

1473. Re: [Alpha87a] HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-15 21:45:27 UTC
From: <johnstarr2013@...>
Topic: 1471 Message: 1473

the ones you are referring to are the LV lytics. I was referring to the HV 350uF @450vdc. I guess I will have to open the amp up and take it apart and leave it on the bench till I find the right ones
john

1474. Alpha 87a Micro Fuses - LF or LFMX?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-15 21:52:16 UTC
From: <johnstarr2013@...>
Topic: 1474 Message: 1474

I have searched (Googled) pretty extensively and cannot find specs for LF versus LFMX. I think LFMX may be "very fast". I need to replace the 1/4A and the one in the amp is marked LFMX while the RFConcepts 87a site picture sshows the 1/4A micro as a plain LF? Can i interchange LF with LFMX or visa versa for all three values (1/4, 1.5 and 2A) of micro fuses in the 87A ? The LF (Littlefuse type 273 is marked LF) seem available while the LFMX is not available.

thanks
john

1475. Re: [Alpha87a] HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-16 00:33:24 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1471 Message: 1475

John,
I work at Alpha (RF Concepts), I thought you sent us an e-mail about that last week? I sent someone an answer with the Mouser part number for the HV filter capacitors, we don't have any in stock.

Send an e-mail to info@... if you still need the numbers.

Glenn AE0Q

On Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 3:45 PM, <johnstarr2013@...> wrote:

>
>
> the ones you are referring to are the LV lytics. I was referring to the
> HV 350uF @450vdc. I guess I will have to open the amp up and take it apart
> and leave it on the bench till I find the right ones
> john
> _
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APD, APR, APG, APK
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

1476. Re: [Alpha87a] HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-16 01:47:40 UTC
From: John Starr
Topic: 1471 Message: 1476

Thanks Glenn,

In checked by inbox, spam box and no email on my question. I see a few different ones in Mouser, Newark, Digikey for 350uF/450vac but of different lengths and diameters. At least on the pictures I have found on the web, the HV caps space in the 87A looks pretty tight and I dont want to order the wrong length or width. I will send an email to rfconcepts but I thought it would be good to have the part numbers permanently listed here on the Yahoo group for all to see. I guess if I had opened it up when I first asked the question I could have had the right part already hihi

john

On Wednesday, January 15, 2014 7:33 PM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

John,
  I work at Alpha (RF Concepts), I thought you sent us an e-mail about that last week? I sent someone an answer with the Mouser part number for the HV filter capacitors, we don't have any in stock.

  Send an e-mail to info@rfconcepts.com if you still need the numbers.

Glenn AE0Q

On Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 3:45 PM, <johnstarr2013@...> wrote:

>
>the ones you are referring to are the LV lytics. I was referring to the HV 350uF @450vdc. I guess I will have to open the amp up and take it apart and leave it on the bench till I find the right ones
>john
>_
>

--

Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APD, APR, APG, APK
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

1477. Re: HV Capacitor Dimensions

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-16 14:22:41 UTC
From: K2CB
Topic: 1471 Message: 1477

Please post the Mouser part numbers here for the rest of us, for future reference.

Eric
K2CB

1478. Changed Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-23 18:45:27 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1478 Message: 1478

I managed to R&R the blower motor assembly. I reassembled and used all the small bits and fasteners, that's usually a good sign. However, to my chagrin the amplifier will not make power (soft fault 14). After removing the cover and double and triple checking I found nothing obviously wrong (no smoke or collateral damage).

I did, however, discover a clue when testing the second time. I lost my receive signal when I switch to operate mode. Standby is okay with signal... operate & power off are fine.

So... I think it's in the T/R module that was jostled around when I changed the blower motor. I do not see anything obvious. An old post suggests a bad pico fuse, I will investigate that scenario next.

Any thoughts?

73
Ken-W9KB

1479. Re: [Alpha87a] Changed Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-23 20:05:50 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1478 Message: 1479

Check the fuse first and try the GPIO test.

73s Ted S52X

2014/1/23 <kbills@...>

>
>
> I managed to R&R the blower motor assembly. I reassembled and used all the
> small bits and fasteners, that's usually a good sign. However, to my
> chagrin the amplifier will not make power (soft fault 14). After removing
> the cover and double and triple checking I found nothing obviously wrong
> (no smoke or collateral damage).
>
>
> I did, however, discover a clue when testing the second time. I lost my
> receive signal when I switch to operate mode. Standby is okay with
> signal... operate & power off are fine.
>
>
> So... I think it's in the T/R module that was jostled around when I
> changed the blower motor. I do not see anything obvious. An old post
> suggests a bad pico fuse, I will investigate that scenario next.
>
>
> Any thoughts?
>
>
> 73
>
> Ken-W9KB
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1480. RE: Changed Blower Motor

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-24 12:38:13 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1478 Message: 1480

I checked the fuses in the T/R module, both were good (1/4 & 2 amp). Ran the GPIO test as suggested. Results looked good with 100 watt carrier (102 watts input, 93 watts output reported).

Still no receive signal in operate mode, standby if fine business.

Any further suggestions?

73
Ken-W9KB

1481. 1N4007 "Poorman's PIN Diode"

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-25 17:17:00 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1481 Message: 1481

After reading the recent thread on 1N4007 diodes, I set off to find the 'right' replacement for my suspect KS1001 PIN diodes in my 87A.

Here is an interesting link that makes sense of things to me:

http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/diode_turn-on_time.htm
http://www.cliftonlaboratories.com/diode_turn-on_time.htm

73
Ken-W9KB

1482. T/R PIN Diode Design

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-27 01:30:30 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1482 Message: 1482

I'm waiting for parts for my PIN diode repair, however, in the meantime I looking over both the Output T/R schematic & the simplified schematic overview (both found in files section).

Two questions: 1. Why are there two PIN diodes in series for both T & R (D2, D8, D6, D11)?

2. Why is the Receive RF shown on the anode side of D11, shouldn't it be on the cathode side (near 2A fuse)?

I afraid I baffled by the design... any help for this OM?

73
Ken-W9KB

1483. RE: T/R PIN Diode Design

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-27 02:40:12 UTC
From: <kbills@...>
Topic: 1482 Message: 1483

I found the answer (fairly obvious) to my first question, two diodes in series doubles the voltage blocking capability...

Still baffled by the T/R output schematic.

73
Ken-W9KB

1484. RE: [Alpha87a] T/R PIN Diode Design

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-01-27 13:29:41 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1482 Message: 1484

I purchased 2 power output PIN diodes from an outside source as spares.

They were 45 bucks each. I got to find the place I bought them from. I can’t locate the bill of sale right now.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kbills@...
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:31 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] T/R PIN Diode Design

I'm waiting for parts for my PIN diode repair, however, in the meantime I looking over both the Output T/R schematic & the simplified schematic overview (both found in files section).

Two questions: 1. Why are there two PIN diodes in series for both T & R (D2, D8, D6, D11)?

2. Why is the Receive RF shown on the anode side of D11, shouldn't it be on the cathode side (near 2A fuse)?

I afraid I baffled by the design... any help for this OM?

73

Ken-W9KB

1485. FS: Cover for 87a Amp

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-06 23:07:58 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1485 Message: 1485

I have a cover for the Alpha 87A or 89 amplifier. I purchased it from Alpha a year ago but never used it. A cover from Alpha is $150 plus approximately $35.00 for shipping or $185.00.

I am selling this one, brand new, never installed for $135.00 (firm) shipped CONUS. You save $50.00.

I will accept Paypal but buyer pays the 3% surcharge of $4.00 for a total of $139.00.

I will also accept a USPS Money Order.

Please contact me via email which is KB0X at arrl dot net

Jim

KB0X

1486. Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-21 22:02:40 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1486 Message: 1486

I have an Apha 87A that I purchased in 12/2011 as the highest grade Factory Refurb. Upon receipt I put in a BRAND NEW pair of Eimac finals, and its use since has been primarily for a once weekly schedule on 20m -- I don't think I've put 100 hours on the tubes. What should I price it at? Clyde, K2UE

1487. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-21 22:12:07 UTC
From: highschooldiving@yahoo.com
Topic: 1486 Message: 1487

Hi Clyde,
   What year is the 87a? Mint? Factory box? Did you purchase from Alpha? HRO? Alpha, Max? remote?
    Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1488. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-21 23:06:54 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1486 Message: 1488

I'm not sure of the manufacture year -- I didn't care because RF Concepts fully updated their refurbs. Yes, I have both factory boxes. I purchased thru HRO when they were brokering the Alpha refurbs, and the unit was shipped directly from RF Concepts. At the time there were various grades, with differences in warranty -- this one was the highest grade. It has AlphaMax and the remote program -- as I said fully updated. It is in very good condition, I would say excellent, but the edges of the front panel seem to chip easily. Clyde, K2UE

1489. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-21 23:43:46 UTC
From: highschooldiving@yahoo.com
Topic: 1486 Message: 1489

Clyde,
I sold my mint 87a to n0jr about 24 months ago. He is reselling it for $3800. Checking eham solds shows $3000-$4000. Good luck. Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1490. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-22 06:46:13 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1486 Message: 1490

Any interest here at $2999 + shipping, before I list it on eBay?

1491. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-22 20:48:37 UTC
From: <k2ue@...>
Topic: 1486 Message: 1491

The Alpha 87A is sold, pending payment.

1492. Re: [Alpha87a] Pricing help please!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-22 21:21:04 UTC
From: highschooldiving@yahoo.com
Topic: 1486 Message: 1492

Clyde, How dud you do on price?
Paul w8jn
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1493. Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 01:02:59 UTC
From: <srmuenich@...>
Topic: 1493 Message: 1493

Hello group,
Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
Any input would be much appreciated.

Thanks
Steve, NA5C

1494. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 12:10:09 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1493 Message: 1494

Steve,

is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?

Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults log?

73s Ted S52X

2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:

>
>
> Hello group,
>
> Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to
> check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
>
> Any input would be much appreciated.
>
>
>
> Thanks
>
> Steve, NA5C
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Tadej Arcon, S52X

1495. Microcontroller Image

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 15:58:49 UTC
From: <johnstarr2013@...>
Topic: 1495 Message: 1495

I have two 87a and cannot see what other amp features I may need in the foreseeable future that would make me sell/replace them. It's great that RFConcepts has decided to continue to service the 87A but the weakest link that will be near impossible to repair when RF Concepts finally stop support will be replacing a fried microcontroller. Has Alpha ever released the microcontroller code or hex code to burn a new processor? Has anyone attempted to copy an image for posterity? Just the hex code shouldn't violate proprietary intellectual property.

Just thinking ahead to the inevitable.

john

1496. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 16:05:08 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1496

Hi Tadej,

Yes, this is with the cover off, and the interlocks disabled. When I replace fuse, and turn on, fuse burns immediately.
No, I have not looked with hyperterminal to see fault log, but I will do that today and report back..

Thanks

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 6:10 AM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:

Steve,

is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?

Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults log?

73s Ted S52X

2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:

>
>Hello group,
>Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
>Any input would be much appreciated.
>
>Thanks
>Steve, NA5C
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1497. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 17:25:01 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1497

Tadej,

OK I have some more info on my 87A problem.

Upon connecting terminal to amp and turning it on, the step start fuse blows and I get a fault 22. I read up a little online, and was directed to check the 36v fuse. The 36V fuse IS good.

I also removed the HV lead from HV supply board and still blows step start fuse and gives fault 22.

ideas?

Thanks
Steve, NA5C

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 10:05 AM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:

Hi Tadej,

Yes, this is with the cover off, and the interlocks disabled. When I replace fuse, and turn on, fuse burns immediately.
No, I have not looked with hyperterminal to see fault log, but I will do that today and report back..

Thanks

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 6:10 AM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:

Steve,

is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?

Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults log?

73s Ted S52X

2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:

>
>Hello group,
>Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
>Any input would be much appreciated.
>
>Thanks
>Steve, NA5C
>
>

>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1498. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 18:35:31 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1493 Message: 1498

Steve,

6 hard faults like fault 22 will make fault 99. This means the amp will lock itself. It is not critical, but, you will need to reset it. The instructions for fault 99 are on the RFC website.

Replace the fuse, leave the amp turned off and type HF and SF in the Hyperterminal. This will report the last 8 faults. See what will report.

Then I would try to disconnect the white Molex connector from the AC board to transformer. It is a 6 hole connector, but only 4 are in use. On the other side of AC board it also a 2 wire orange MTA connector. This is the blower connector, remove it maybe your blower is shorted. Then try to turn it on. If it blow the fuse again, the problem is probably on AC board. You will get another fault 22. Keep the Hyperterminal connected and see what it report.

73s Ted S52X

> On 23. feb. 2014, at 18:25, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
> Tadej,
>
> OK I have some more info on my 87A problem.
>
> Upon connecting terminal to amp and turning it on, the step start fuse blows and I get a fault 22. I read up a little online, and was directed to check the 36v fuse. The 36V fuse IS good.
>
> I also removed the HV lead from HV supply board and still blows step start fuse and gives fault 22.
>
> ideas?
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
>
> On Sunday, February 23, 2014 10:05 AM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Tadej,
>
> Yes, this is with the cover off, and the interlocks disabled. When I replace fuse, and turn on, fuse burns immediately.
> No, I have not looked with hyperterminal to see fault log, but I will do that today and

report back..
>
> Thanks
>
>
> On Sunday, February 23, 2014 6:10 AM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Steve,
>
> is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?
>
> Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults log?
>
> 73s Ted S52X
>
>
> 2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:
>
> Hello group,
> Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to check for the
Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
> Any input would be much appreciated.
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
>
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> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
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1499. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 18:59:17 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1499

Ted,

Yes I found out about the fault 99, and I have reset it with the commands, long process, It indeed cleared the fault 99 , now with SF and HF commands, all I see are the fault 22 on HF command.
I have removed the transformer from chassis to look at low voltage board so I in fact disconnected the mentioned white 6 pin molex connector, but I will check it more closely. I will disconnect the blower motor connector and report back.
Also removed the tubes with same fault 22 indication FYI.
I need to get some more fuses.
I will report back.

Thanks
Steve, NA5C

On Sunday, February 23, 2014 12:41 PM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:

Steve,

6 hard faults like fault 22 will make fault 99. This means the amp will lock itself. It is not critical, but, you will need to reset it. The instructions for fault 99 are on the RFC website.

Replace the fuse, leave the amp turned off and type HF and SF in the Hyperterminal. This will report the last 8 faults. See what will report.

Then I would try to disconnect the white Molex connector from the AC board to transformer. It is a 6 hole connector, but only 4 are in use. On the other side of AC board it also a 2 wire orange MTA connector. This is the blower connector, remove it maybe your blower is shorted. Then try to turn it on. If it blow the fuse again, the problem is probably on AC board. You will get another fault 22. Keep the Hyperterminal connected and see what it report.

73s Ted S52X

On 23. feb. 2014, at 18:25, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@yahoo.com> wrote:

>Tadej,
>
>OK I have some more info on my 87A problem.
>
>Upon connecting terminal to amp and turning it on, the step start fuse blows and I get a fault 22. I read up a little online, and was directed to check the 36v fuse. The 36V fuse IS good.
>
> I also removed the HV lead from HV supply board and still blows step start fuse and gives fault 22.

>
>ideas?
>
>Thanks
>Steve, NA5C
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>
>On Sunday, February 23, 2014 10:05 AM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
>
>Hi Tadej,
>
>Yes, this is with the cover off, and the interlocks disabled. When I replace fuse, and turn on, fuse burns immediately.
>No, I have not looked with hyperterminal to see fault log, but I will do that today and report back..
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>Thanks
>
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>
>On Sunday, February 23, 2014 6:10 AM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
>
>Steve,
>
>is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?
>
>
>Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults log?
>
>
>73s Ted S52X
>
>
>
>
>2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:
>
>
>>
>>Hello group,
>>Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
>>Any input would be much appreciated.
>>
>>Thanks

>>Steve, NA5C
>>
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>--
>Tadej Arcon, S52X
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>

1500. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-23 22:07:00 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1493 Message: 1500

You can copy/paste the commands for reseting the fault 99, be sure what you paste!

73s

2014-02-23 19:59 GMT+01:00 Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...>:

>
>
> Ted,
>
> Yes I found out about the fault 99, and I have reset it with the commands,
> long process, It indeed cleared the fault 99 , now with SF and HF
> commands, all I see are the fault 22 on HF command.
> I have removed the transformer from chassis to look at low voltage board
> so I in fact disconnected the mentioned white 6 pin molex connector, but I
> will check it more closely. I will disconnect the blower motor connector
> and report back.
> Also removed the tubes with same fault 22 indication FYI.
> I need to get some more fuses.
> I will report back.
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
> On Sunday, February 23, 2014 12:41 PM, Tadej Arcon <
> tadej.arcon@...> wrote:
>
> Steve,
>
> 6 hard faults like fault 22 will make fault 99. This means the amp will
> lock itself. It is not critical, but, you will need to reset it. The
> instructions for fault 99 are on the RFC website.
>
> Replace the fuse, leave the amp turned off and type HF and SF in the
> Hyperterminal. This will report the last 8 faults. See what will report.
>
> Then I would try to disconnect the white Molex connector from the AC board
> to transformer. It is a 6 hole connector, but only 4 are in use. On the
> other side of AC board it also a 2 wire orange MTA connector. This is the
> blower connector, remove it maybe your blower is shorted. Then try to turn
> it on. If it blow the fuse again, the problem is probably on AC board. You
> will get another fault 22. Keep the Hyperterminal connected and see what it
> report.

>
> 73s Ted S52X
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> On 23. feb. 2014, at 18:25, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...>
> wrote:
>
>
> Tadej,
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>
> Upon connecting terminal to amp and turning it on, the step start fuse
> blows and I get a fault 22. I read up a little online, and was directed to
> check the 36v fuse. The 36V fuse IS good.
>
> I also removed the HV lead from HV supply board and still blows step
> start fuse and gives fault 22.
>
> ideas?
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
>
> On Sunday, February 23, 2014 10:05 AM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <
> srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Tadej,
>
> Yes, this is with the cover off, and the interlocks disabled. When I
> replace fuse, and turn on, fuse burns immediately.
> No, I have not looked with hyperterminal to see fault log, but I will do
> that today and report back..
>
> Thanks
>
>
> On Sunday, February 23, 2014 6:10 AM, Tadej Arcon <tadej.arcon@...>
> wrote:
>
> Steve,
>
> is this happening with cover off? Have you disable the interlocks?
>
> Have you try to connect your 87a via the Hyperterminal and see the faults
> log?
>
> 73s Ted S52X

>
>
> 2014-02-23 2:02 GMT+01:00 <srmuenich@...>:
>
>
> Hello group,
> Does anyone have any experience as to what is likely cause, or things to
> check for the Step Start fuse (1.25amp, F4) to repeatedly blow?
> Any input would be much appreciated.
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
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> --
> Tadej Arcon, S52X
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Tadej Arcon, S52X

1501. FS: Metal Cover for 87a and 89

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-24 15:19:56 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1501 Message: 1501

I have a spare metal cover to the 87A and 89 amplifiers I would like to sell.

If you are beautifying your amplifier from prior use this is a quick and easy way to do so.

They sell on RFC for $150. I spoke to them and they charge $35 to ship it. So you are at $185 for a cover from them.

I'm selling mine for $150 shipped to CONUS.

Please reply to me direct via email at KB0X at arrl dot net.

73,

Jim

KB0X

1502. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-24 17:12:03 UTC
From: <wc1m73@...>
Topic: 1493 Message: 1502

Steve,

I assume when you say "interlocks" in the plural, you've disabled both of them. The HV interlock is obvious -- it's the metal piece to the right of the HV board with a hole in it that surrounds a screw protruding from the middle chassis wall. The other interlock is a small "snap" switch (or "leaf" switch) mounted on the other side of the wall back towards the transformer. If you don't lock that switch down tight, the step start fuse will blow every time.

If you've locked down the the switch, it's possible you haven't pushed the leaf down far enough to activate the switch. It's not easy to lock that switch down. I usually use a cable tie, but it's tricky to get it placed just right. Another possibility, though unlikely, is that the switch is broken.

If you're confident that the interlock switch is activated, then disconnect the transformer and try again. If the fuse blows, there's a short in the blower. If not, reconnect the LVPS and see if the fuse blows. If not, reconnect the HVPS.

1503. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 01:10:50 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1503

OK, have done the following:
I have disabled both interlocks, (switch and the HV shorting screw). I also have verified that the interlock switch is indeed functioning correctly.
With the White Molex plug to transformer unplugged, but the blower connected, Amp briefly turns on for about 1 sec then fault 22 as seen on terminal PC. I can hear the blower during this short 1 sec interval. Then reconnecting the Molex to the transformer, with the blower un-plugged, fuse blows immediately.

ideas?

Steve, NA5C

On Monday, February 24, 2014 11:12 AM, "wc1m73@..." <wc1m73@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve,

I assume when you say "interlocks" in the plural, you've disabled both of them. The HV interlock is obvious -- it's the metal piece to the right of the HV board with a hole in it that surrounds a screw protruding from the middle chassis wall. The other interlock is a small "snap" switch (or "leaf" switch) mounted on the other side of the wall back towards the transformer. If you don't lock that switch down tight, the step start fuse will blow every time.

If you've locked down the the switch, it's possible you haven't pushed the leaf down far enough to activate the switch. It's not easy to lock that switch down. I usually use a cable tie, but it's tricky to get it placed just right. Another possibility, though unlikely, is that the switch is broken.

If you're confident that the interlock switch is activated, then disconnect the transformer and try again. If the fuse blows, there's a short in the blower. If not, reconnect the LVPS and see if the fuse blows. If not, reconnect the HVPS.

1504. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 02:31:28 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1504

It appears now that only when the HVPS circuit board is connected to transformer the start step fuse blows. If LVPS only, it turns on briefly, and shuts down, but does not blow fuse. Fuse blows only when HVPS is connected. I have removed the red HV wire from HVPS to tubes with same result. I guess I am making some progress.
Does anyone have knowledge of HVPS troubleshooting.

Thanks
Steve, NA5C

On Monday, February 24, 2014 7:11 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:

OK, have done the following:
I have disabled both interlocks, (switch and the HV shorting screw). I also have verified that the interlock switch is indeed functioning correctly.
With the White Molex plug to transformer unplugged, but the blower connected, Amp briefly turns on for about 1 sec then fault 22 as seen on terminal PC. I can hear the blower during this short 1 sec interval. Then reconnecting the Molex to the transformer, with the blower un-plugged, fuse blows immediately.

ideas?

Steve, NA5C

On Monday, February 24, 2014 11:12 AM, "wc1m73@..." <wc1m73@...> wrote:

Steve,

I assume when you say "interlocks" in the plural, you've disabled both of them. The HV interlock is obvious -- it's the metal piece to the right of the HV board with a hole in it that surrounds a screw protruding from the middle chassis wall. The other interlock is a small "snap" switch (or "leaf" switch) mounted on the other side of the wall back towards the transformer. If you don't lock that switch down tight, the step start fuse will blow every time.

If you've locked down the the switch, it's possible you haven't pushed the leaf down far enough to activate the switch. It's not easy to lock that switch down. I usually use a cable tie, but it's tricky to get it placed just right. Another possibility, though unlikely, is that the switch is broken.

If you're confident that the interlock switch is activated, then disconnect the transformer and try again. If the fuse blows, there's a short in the blower. If not, reconnect the LVPS and see if the fuse blows. If not, reconnect the HVPS.

1505. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 02:32:34 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1493 Message: 1505

Steve,

Here are my "stock" notes for an 87A Fault 22 at Alpha.

Have you tried removing the HV transformer connector, and if that stops the Fault 22, reconnect it and remove the tubes to see if it is a tube or the HVPS.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 7:10 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...>wrote:

>
>
> OK, have done the following:
> I have disabled both interlocks, (switch and the HV shorting screw). I
> also have verified that the interlock switch is indeed functioning
> correctly.
> With the White Molex plug to transformer unplugged, but the blower
> connected, Amp briefly turns on for about 1 sec then fault 22 as seen on
> terminal PC. I can hear the blower during this short 1 sec interval. Then
> reconnecting the Molex to the transformer, with the blower un-plugged, fuse
> blows immediately.
>
> ideas?
>
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

1506. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 02:34:35 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1493 Message: 1506

Oops, I left out the typical Fault 22 causes from the first msg.
Glenn AE0Q

If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a blown step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), or can indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown.

The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.
This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms.

Another cause of the amp shutting down can be a shorted tube. You can test that by either removing the tubes, or by disconnecting the red HV lead from the left-rear corner of the HV power supply board. It will still get a fault, but should not be a hard fault.

1507. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 02:38:11 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1493 Message: 1507

Steve,

If your HVPS has the monoblock HV bridge rectifier mounted as a retrofit, check around the edges for any signs of black soot or arcing. The monoblock replaced 4 tubular diodes and is squeezed into their space on the board, some have lately been arcing between the traces under the sticky tap they used to mount the black bridge.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 8:31 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...>wrote:

>
>
> It appears now that only when the HVPS circuit board is connected to
> transformer the start step fuse blows. If LVPS only, it turns on
> briefly, and shuts down, but does not blow fuse. Fuse blows only when HVPS
> is connected. I have removed the red HV wire from HVPS to tubes with same
> result. I guess I am making some progress.
> Does anyone have knowledge of HVPS troubleshooting.
>
> Thanks
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
> On Monday, February 24, 2014 7:11 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <
> srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
> OK, have done the following:
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> correctly.
> With the White Molex plug to transformer unplugged, but the blower
> connected, Amp briefly turns on for about 1 sec then fault 22 as seen on
> terminal PC. I can hear the blower during this short 1 sec interval. Then
> reconnecting the Molex to the transformer, with the blower un-plugged, fuse
> blows immediately.
>
> ideas?
>
> Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
> On Monday, February 24, 2014 11:12 AM, "wc1m73@..." <

> wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
> Steve,
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> I assume when you say "interlocks" in the plural, you've disabled both of
> them. The HV interlock is obvious -- it's the metal piece to the right of
> the HV board with a hole in it that surrounds a screw protruding from the
> middle chassis wall. The other interlock is a small "snap" switch (or
> "leaf" switch) mounted on the other side of the wall back towards the
> transformer. If you don't lock that switch down tight, the step start fuse
> will blow every time.
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> If you've locked down the the switch, it's possible you haven't pushed the
> leaf down far enough to activate the switch. It's not easy to lock that
> switch down. I usually use a cable tie, but it's tricky to get it placed
> just right. Another possibility, though unlikely, is that the switch is
> broken.
>
> If you're confident that the interlock switch is activated, then
> disconnect the transformer and try again. If the fuse blows, there's a
> short in the blower. If not, reconnect the LVPS and see if the fuse blows.
> If not, reconnect the HVPS.
>
>
>
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>
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>

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Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

1508. Re: [Alpha87a] Step Start fuse blowing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-02-25 02:56:12 UTC
From: Steve Muenich-NA5C
Topic: 1493 Message: 1508

Glen,
It looks like my HV rectifier is 4 individual large diodes in middle of HVPS board. Not a monoblock. I have removed the red wire to the tube compartment with fuse still blowing. I checked the plug in type fuse on LVPS board just underneath the HVPS board and tests good. I believe that is the 36V fuse you referred to earlier.

Steve, NA5C

On Monday, February 24, 2014 8:38 PM, Glenn AE0Q <gm5bkc@...> wrote:

Steve,

  If your HVPS has the monoblock HV bridge rectifier mounted as a retrofit, check around the edges for any signs of black soot or arcing. The monoblock replaced 4 tubular diodes and is squeezed into their space on the board, some have lately been arcing between the traces under the sticky tap they used to mount the black bridge.

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Feb 24, 2014 at 8:31 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:

>
>It appears now that only when the HVPS circuit board is connected to transformer the start step fuse blows. If LVPS only, it turns on briefly, and shuts down, but does not blow fuse. Fuse blows only when HVPS is connected. I have removed the red HV wire from HVPS to tubes with same result. I guess I am making some progress.
>Does anyone have knowledge of HVPS troubleshooting.
>
>Thanks
>Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
>
>On Monday, February 24, 2014 7:11 PM, Steve Muenich-NA5C <srmuenich@...> wrote:
>
>
>OK, have done the following:
>I have disabled both interlocks, (switch and the HV shorting screw). I also have verified that the interlock switch is indeed functioning correctly.
>With the White Molex plug to transformer unplugged, but the blower connected, Amp briefly turns on for about 1 sec then fault 22 as seen on terminal PC. I can hear the blower during this short 1 sec interval. Then reconnecting the Molex to the transformer, with the blower un-plugged, fuse blows immediately.
>
>ideas?
>

>Steve, NA5C
>
>
>
>
>On Monday, February 24, 2014 11:12 AM, "wc1m73@..." <wc1m73@...> wrote:
>
>
>Steve,
>
>
>I assume when you say "interlocks" in the plural, you've disabled both of them. The HV interlock is obvious -- it's the metal piece to the right of the HV board with a hole in it that surrounds a screw protruding from the middle chassis wall. The other interlock is a small "snap" switch (or "leaf" switch) mounted on the other side of the wall back towards the transformer. If you don't lock that switch down tight, the step start fuse will blow every time.
>
>
>If you've locked down the the switch, it's possible you haven't pushed the leaf down far enough to activate the switch. It's not easy to lock that switch down. I usually use a cable tie, but it's tricky to get it placed just right. Another possibility, though unlikely, is that the switch is broken.
>
>
>If you're confident that the interlock switch is activated, then disconnect the transformer and try again. If the fuse blows, there's a short in the blower. If not, reconnect the LVPS and see if the fuse blows. If not, reconnect the HVPS.
>
>
>
>
>
>

--

Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie - EAC,
OJC, WV-O, TG-O, TN-O, HP-N,
NADAC Novice Versatility Award,
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-IAA,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

1509. Want 87A late model

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-01 14:54:32 UTC
From: <altc427@...>
Topic: 1509 Message: 1509

Hi all looking to purchase a later model 87A. Should have full output and come from a non smoking shack. Seller should be OK taking PayPal. I live in the northeast so a pickup would be fine to. Thanks in advance for any response to K2VF@aol.com.

1510. Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-01 19:01:30 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1510 Message: 1510

Hi Everyone,

I just replaced the fan in my 87a (it was a b****) and I really don't have much more air flow than I did before. But now, I get a Fault 9. Any ideas?

Thanks.

Larry, KN8N

1511. Re: [Alpha87a] Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-02 07:44:11 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1510 Message: 1511

Hi Larry,

This web site appears to be the definitive source for 87a information: <http://asktheham.com/node/64>. That particular link contains the lament of an operator with Fault 9 woes.

Perhaps you can search the site for more information.

Good luck, my friend.

Best regards,
Larry

On Sat, 1 Mar 2014 11:01:30 -0800 (PST), Larry Boekeloo <lboekeloo@...> wrote:

>Hi Everyone,
>
>I just replaced the fan in my 87a (it was a b****) and I really don't have much more air flow than I did before. But now, I get a Fault 9. Any ideas?
>
>Thanks.
>
>Larry, KN8N

1512. RE: Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-02 13:59:05 UTC
From: <dj2001x@...>
Topic: 1510 Message: 1512

Fault code 9 has something to do with the PIN diode.
9 Soft Transmit PIN diode forward current below minimum required value key down.73
Dale, k9vuj

1513. RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-02 14:21:40 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1510 Message: 1513

Can anyone tell me what the voltage is on the transmit Pin’s when in fault mode?

Jim, KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dj2001x@...
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Fault code 9 has something to do with the PIN diode.

9

Soft

Transmit PIN diode forward current below minimum required value key down.

73
Dale, k9vuj

1514. RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-02 15:59:21 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1510 Message: 1514

I don’t think you can use measured voltage in that manner. If you Google Fault 9 you will find a lot of info from Alpha 87a users as well as comments from Alpha/RFConcept people like Glenn and Brad. You must lift one end of the suspect pin diode and measure for defective diode. However I would also advise Googling for Alpha 87A and Dick WC1M. You will lots of extremely important info and tips. One I recall though not sure if it was for Fault 9 or 11 was that one of the tubes was removed and not reinserted correctly. Also, Dick after working thru a Fault 9 found that the underlying cause was barely noticeable arcing from L1 wound toroid to PCB board on the T/R board. I suggest you search and read first on these tips as there is a lot of good info.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Wolf
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 09:22
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Can anyone tell me what the voltage is on the transmit Pin’s when in fault mode?

Jim, KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dj2001x@...
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Fault code 9 has something to do with the PIN diode.

9
Soft

Transmit PIN diode forward current below minimum required value key down.
73
Dale, k9vuj

1515. RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-02 23:43:20 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1510 Message: 1515

Jerry,

Thanks. In my case, I suspect the transmit diodes are good and I have already replaced the receive pins. I have -6VDC on the cathode and +32V on the anode of the transmit pins.

Jim

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jerry
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

I don’t think you can use measured voltage in that manner. If you Google Fault 9 you will find a lot of info from Alpha 87a users as well as comments from Alpha/RFConcept people like Glenn and Brad. You must lift one end of the suspect pin diode and measure for defective diode. However I would also advise Googling for Alpha 87A and Dick WC1M. You will lots of extremely important info and tips. One I recall though not sure if it was for Fault 9 or 11 was that one of the tubes was removed and not reinserted correctly. Also, Dick after working thru a Fault 9 found that the underlying cause was barely noticeable arcing from L1 wound toroid to PCB board on the T/R board. I suggest you search and read first on these tips as there is a lot of good info.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of James Wolf
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 09:22
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Can anyone tell me what the voltage is on the transmit Pin’s when in fault mode?

Jim, KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dj2001x@...
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] RE: Fult 9

Fault code 9 has something to do with the PIN diode.

9

Soft

Transmit PIN diode forward current below minimum required value key down.

73
Dale, k9vuj

1516. Alpha 87a with IC7800

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-07 19:45:41 UTC
From: David Bunte
Topic: 1516 Message: 1516

Greetings -

I am helping a 92 year old friend with a recent problem that arose at his station. He has two stations, and I am his "go to guy" when he has a problem. He is using an IC7800 with his Alpha 87a. He has been using this combination for quite some number of years, with no problems at all. From day one he has utilized the RF sense feature of the 87a for both band switching, and RF switching. He has been pleased with the flawless performance of both units in this manner, including silky smooth high speed QSK at full power.

Recently, the amp stopped sensing the presence of RF, so it did not change bands, and did not provide any amplification.

I know how make the rig key the amp via the key line out of the '7800... but have not figured out how to get the amp to follow the '7800 for band changes. I don't know if that is possible WITHOUT a connected computer.

I clearly want to restore the RF sensing function of his amp, but if there is a way to send the band data to the amp in the meantime, I would appreciate guidance in how to do so.

Dave - K9FN

1517. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a with IC7800

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-07 19:51:39 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1516 Message: 1517

I'm not sure this will be "the" solution, but the HB9ZS Alpha 87a program works by listening to the IC7800, then telling the Alpha 87a to change bands in anticipation:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

I use it with my IC7700, and it works flawlessly.

73,

Joe
WD?M

On 3/7/2014 12:45 PM, David Bunte wrote:
> Greetings -
>
>
>
> I am helping a 92 year old friend with a recent problem that arose at
> his station. He has two stations, and I am his "go to guy" when he
> has a problem. He is using an IC7800 with his Alpha 87a. He has been
> using this combination for quite some number of years, with no
> problems at all. From day one he has utilized the RF sense feature of
> the 87a for both band switching, and RF switching. He has been
> pleased with the flawless performance of both units in this manner,
> including silky smooth high speed QSK at full power.
>
> Recently, the amp stopped sensing the presence of RF, so it did not
> change bands, and did not provide any amplification.
>
> I know how make the rig key the amp via the key line out of the
> '7800... but have not figured out how to get the amp to follow the
> '7800 for band changes. I don't know if that is possible WITHOUT a
> connected computer.
>
> I clearly want to restore the RF sensing function of his amp, but if
> there is a way to send the band data to the amp in the meantime, I
> would appreciate guidance in how to do so.
>
> Dave - K9FN
>
>

1518. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a with IC7800

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-07 20:17:52 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1516 Message: 1518

I have the same setup but use DXLabs Commander and whatever I set my IC7800 to, the Alpha 87a follows. In fact it works so well, that when I set my Commander to Dual Receive and Split, the Alpha will always follow the Split Xmit Freq even if cross band !

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Joe
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 14:52
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a with IC7800

I'm not sure this will be "the" solution, but the HB9ZS Alpha 87a program works by listening to the IC7800, then telling the Alpha 87a to change bands in anticipation:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/

I use it with my IC7700, and it works flawlessly.

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 3/7/2014 12:45 PM, David Bunte wrote:

Greetings -

I am helping a 92 year old friend with a recent problem that arose at his station. He has two stations, and I am his "go to guy" when he has a problem. He is using an IC7800 with his Alpha 87a. He has been using this combination for quite some number of years, with no problems at all. From day one he has utilized the RF sense feature of the 87a for both band switching, and RF switching. He has been pleased with the flawless performance of both units in this manner, including silky smooth high speed QSK at full power.
Recently, the amp stopped sensing the presence of RF, so it did not change bands, and did not provide any amplification.
I know how make the rig key the amp via the key line out of the '7800... but have not figured out how to get the amp to follow the '7800 for band changes. I don't know if that is possible WITHOUT a connected computer.
I clearly want to restore the RF sensing function of his amp, but if there is a way to send the band data to the amp in the meantime, I would appreciate guidance in how to do so.

Dave - K9FN

1519. IC7800 to ALPHA 87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-08 01:11:11 UTC
From: David Bunte
Topic: 1519 Message: 1519

Many thanks for the prompt and helpful responses.

I went out to my friends this evening and found that there indeed was a cable to key the amp, but at the radio end it was not making a reliable connection. It seemed to be seated well, but I unplugged it, plugged it in again, and rotated it a bit to "wipe" the contact. The radio then keyed the amp, and all is well.

I may get a higher quality cable, with gold plating to hopefully reduce the chance of a similar problem in the future.

Dave - K9FN

1520. 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-29 05:54:29 UTC
From: <bob.5b4agn@...>
Topic: 753 Message: 1520

A few weeks ago my 87A which was turned on, in operate mode but not driven, suddenly powered down. No big deal I thought, this having happened a number of times over the years. This proved to be different in that when I again applied power no LEDs illuminated but the fan could be heard running. After a few seconds the amp powered down again. This was the first time I have seen this particular behaviour, I guessed that maybe a brown out had upset the microprocessor so unplugged the amp from the wall for a couple of minutes, When I plugged in again the amp started up with LEDs scrolling for several seconds, it then settled down just fine and has been good ever since. Until today.....

Once again the amp powered down and on switch on only the fan started with no LEDs illuminated. After a few seconds it powered off again. I unplugged the amp from the wall socket for a couple of minutes and when power was re-applied it turned on with LEDs scrolling. However before the 3 minute warm up expires it powered down again. Once again only the fan starts when power is re-applied.

We do get occasional brown outs but not too often. The repeatability of the problem suggests an internal failure likely PSU related. As these are circumstances I haven't seen before, hints and tips on how best to track down the cause will be highly appreciated.

Thanks.

Bob, 5B4AGN

1521. Re: 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-29 12:42:51 UTC
From: <pmuscian@...>
Topic: 753 Message: 1521

Hi Bob--

One step to take is to learn what fault codes the amp generated when it failed. Use a terminal program or one of the other free/shareware software programs that can be used to access/control the 87A. I'm away from the shack and my documentation for the specifics,73 Paula k9ir but once you can connect to the 87A brain, it's fairly easy to see the history of those fault codes, look them up in the manual and proceed from there in resolving the shutdown issue.

73 Paula k9ir

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <bob.5b4agn@...> wrote :

A few weeks ago my 87A which was turned on, in operate mode but not driven, suddenly powered down. No big deal I thought, this having happened a number of times over the years. This proved to be different in that when I again applied power no LEDs illuminated but the fan could be heard running. After a few seconds the amp powered down again. This was the first time I have seen this particular behaviour, I guessed that maybe a brown out had upset the microprocessor so unplugged the amp from the wall for a couple of minutes, When I plugged in again the amp started up with LEDs scrolling for several seconds, it then settled down just fine and has been good ever since. Until today.....

Once again the amp powered down and on switch on only the fan started with no LEDs illuminated. After a few seconds it powered off again. I unplugged the amp from the wall socket for a couple of minutes and when power was re-applied it turned on with LEDs scrolling. However before the 3 minute warm up expires it powered down again. Once again only the fan starts when power is re-applied.

We do get occasional brown outs but not too often. The repeatability of the problem suggests an internal failure likely PSU related. As these are circumstances I haven't seen before, hints and tips on how best to track down the cause will be highly appreciated.

Thanks.

Bob, 5B4AGN

1522. 87A fault 17 on 80/40M - Other bands OK

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-29 19:03:04 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1522 Message: 1522

I have an 87A which works perfectly on every band except for 80 and 40 meters. On those bands, the amp faults 100% of the time with the following in the diagnostic terminal display:

EXTREME MISTUNE, GAIN TOO LOW!
FAULT 17

I notice that the SWR seen by the exciter usually goes very high on 40 meters just before the 87A faults. Oddly, I don't see the same high exciter SWR behavior on 80 meters.

While researching the problem, I came across an earlier discussion here which indicated that the bandswitch alignment might be one possible cause. The meter diodes were also mentioned, but from what I read, failed meter diodes would have taken out every band, and not just one (or two bands, as in my case.)

I went into "EXT ON" mode and read the following power levels (GPIO) while transmitting in standby mode into a dummy load:

80M
GPIO = 0 .00 129 97
GPIO = 0 .01 129 104

40M
GPIO = 0 .00 105 78
GPIO = 0 .00 105 78

20M
GPIO = 0 .00 101 72
GPIO = 0 .00 99 72

10M
GPIO = 0 .00 109 84
GPIO = 0 .00 111 84

Do these values indicate a problem with the meter diodes? If they failed, would the amplifier still operate fine on the other 7 bands?

Assuming it was a bandswitch alignment error, I then tried adjusting the bandswitch up and down as follows. For example, the initial values for 40M were:

B7BD = 3A 4D 62 77 8C A1 B3 14

I tried changing the "3A" in increments of two up (3C, 3E) and two down (2F, 2D) but never could get the amp to tune on 40M, whether approaching from 30M or 80M (or any other band.) No matter which direction I went

with the numbers, I could not get the amp to work on 40M. Same story for 80M. I always verified that the new value was written correctly (by typing "DM B7BD" for example) before testing.

One assumption I am making is that after writing the values to the EEPROM by typing (for example) "W B7BD 3B" no further action is required to test the new setting, other than chaning bands. Perhaps I am missing a crucial step in the bandswitch alignment procedure?

Any ideas/suggestions would be appreciated.

Kirk, K4RO

1523. Re: 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-30 01:24:45 UTC
From: <bob.5b4agn@...>
Topic: 753 Message: 1523

Thanks Paula. I know I have a cable for this but it's so long since I last used it I've no idea where it might be. It was easier to make a new one than find the old. HF log reports alternating 24 & 37. 37 most likely erroneous. I reseated a bunch of connectors in the PSU area and we're up and running.
73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1524. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-30 01:50:14 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 753 Message: 1524

Bob,

I’m glad you got it fixed.

A straight-through serial cable is all that’s required.

I like the free software from HB9ZS. It reads the frequency from the two programs I use, N1MM and DXLab, and presents the amplifier to the right frequency so it’s tuned without applying RF. http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/ and click on the “Alpha 87a CAT” link. It has a window that you can open to communicate with the 87A’s fault detection system to read the hard and soft fault history.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of bob.5b4agn@...
Sent: March 29, 2014 20:25
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Problem

Thanks Paula. I know I have a cable for this but it's so long since I last used it I've no idea where it might be. It was easier to make a new one than find the old. HF log reports alternating 24 & 37. 37 most likely erroneous. I reseated a bunch of connectors in the PSU area and we're up and running.
73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1525. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-30 02:37:46 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 753 Message: 1525

I’ll blame Outlook for substituting a different word below.

73, Jim N7US

Bob,

I’m glad you got it fixed.

A straight-through serial cable is all that’s required.

I like the free software from HB9ZS. It reads the frequency from the two programs I use, N1MM and DXLab, and presents presets the amplifier to the right frequency so it’s tuned without applying RF. http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/ and click on the “Alpha 87a CAT” link. It has a window that you can open to communicate with the 87A’s fault detection system to read the hard and soft fault history.

73, Jim N7US

1526. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A fault 17 on 80/40M - Other bands OK

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-03-31 09:11:08 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1522 Message: 1526

Hi Kirk,

check the input band switch wafer in the tube deck. Also check if the band switch is aligned properly.

73s Ted S52X

2014-03-29 20:03 GMT+01:00 K4RO Kirk Pickering <k4ro@...>:

>
>
> I have an 87A which works perfectly on every band except for 80 and 40
> meters. On those bands, the amp faults 100% of the time with the
> following in the diagnostic terminal display:
>
> EXTREME MISTUNE, GAIN TOO LOW!
> FAULT 17
>
> I notice that the SWR seen by the exciter usually goes very high on 40
> meters just before the 87A faults. Oddly, I don't see the same high
> exciter SWR behavior on 80 meters.
>
> While researching the problem, I came across an earlier discussion here
> which indicated that the bandswitch alignment might be one possible
> cause. The meter diodes were also mentioned, but from what I read,
> failed meter diodes would have taken out every band, and not just one
> (or two bands, as in my case.)
>
> I went into "EXT ON" mode and read the following power levels (GPIO)
> while transmitting in standby mode into a dummy load:
>
> 80M
> GPIO = 0 .00 129 97
> GPIO = 0 .01 129 104
>
> 40M
> GPIO = 0 .00 105 78
> GPIO = 0 .00 105 78
>
> 20M
> GPIO = 0 .00 101 72
> GPIO = 0 .00 99 72
>
> 10M
> GPIO = 0 .00 109 84
> GPIO = 0 .00 111 84

>
> Do these values indicate a problem with the meter diodes? If they
> failed, would the amplifier still operate fine on the other 7 bands?
>
> Assuming it was a bandswitch alignment error, I then tried adjusting the
> bandswitch up and down as follows. For example, the initial values for
> 40M were:
>
> B7BD = 3A 4D 62 77 8C A1 B3 14
>
> I tried changing the "3A" in increments of two up (3C, 3E) and two down
> (2F, 2D) but never could get the amp to tune on 40M, whether approaching
> from 30M or 80M (or any other band.) No matter which direction I went
> with the numbers, I could not get the amp to work on 40M. Same story for
> 80M. I always verified that the new value was written correctly (by
> typing "DM B7BD" for example) before testing.
>
> One assumption I am making is that after writing the values to
> the EEPROM by typing (for example) "W B7BD 3B" no further action is
> required to test the new setting, other than chaning bands. Perhaps I am
> missing a crucial step in the bandswitch alignment procedure?
>
> Any ideas/suggestions would be appreciated.
>
> Kirk, K4RO
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1527. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A fault 17 on 80/40M - Other bands OK

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-04-01 02:05:19 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1522 Message: 1527

Thanks Ted, I will check this. I saw an earlier note from WC1M also confirming this as a possible failure point.

73, Kirk K4RO

On 3/31/2014 4:11 AM, Tadej Arcon wrote:
> Hi Kirk,
>
> check the input band switch wafer in the tube deck. Also check if the
> band switch is aligned properly.
>
> 73s Ted S52X

1528. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A fault 17 on 80/40M - Other bands OK

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-04-01 02:30:56 UTC
From: <pmuscian@...>
Topic: 1522 Message: 1528

Hi Kirk--

I dug up my repair docs from 2011, as your issues sounded similar to those I had.

I had "soft" tubes; Eimac apparently had a bad run of them for 87A amps built around 2000, which was when I bought mine. My symptoms: I had high input SWR on several bands, and a Fault 17 on 30M (and no, I wasn't running over 200W on 30M ;-)!). So--depending on either when your amp was built or when the tubes in it were bought, you may have the same issue.

I replaced the tubes (sent replacements direct to Alpha for install/test). In addition, Alpha replaced the following parts: RFF-F224-C (replaced with a 220K 3w film resistor)--I think this is a reference to R40-43 in the HV board; JAX-X706 (header MTA 4 pin) (large) (low volt) and JAX-X725 (Header MTA 3 pin) (Large) (tube deck)--these I believe are filament connectors. Alpha retuned the bandswitch and tested the amp on all bands. Since receiving it back, it's worked like a champ.

FYI my GPIO results at the time--before the repairs--were as follows:
80M--111/89
15M--100/89
12M--100/89 and 100/85
10M--90/76, 94/89, 100/89
With SWR 1.2 or less on 20 and 17M, GPIO results on those bands were:
20M--107/89
17M--104/89

73 Paula k9ir

1529. ALPHA 87A Original Software doesn't work on Windows 8.1?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-04-02 22:29:30 UTC
From: <n2bj@...>
Topic: 1529 Message: 1529

I am trying to migrate to a new computer that has Windows 8.1
Been struggling with many of the older ham software programs with serial ports and now I am down to the Alpha 87A serial port and the program does not connect to the serial port. I am using the same port number as before with windows 7 port 10 and 4800 baud and have tried other ports down to port number 1. I have tried the HB9 program with INTERMITTENT success.
Anyone have the old 87A program working on Windows 8.1 64 bit and if so can you please send me the secret?
You can contact me direct at n2bj@comcast.net

Thanks

73

Barry

1530. Re: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A Original Software doesn't work on Windows 8.1?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-04-03 08:36:05 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1529 Message: 1530

Have you try in Windows: right click - properties - Run this program in compatibility mode for: Win XP

73s Ted S52X

2014-04-03 0:29 GMT+02:00 <n2bj@...>:

>
>
> I am trying to migrate to a new computer that has Windows 8.1
>
> Been struggling with many of the older ham software programs with serial
> ports and now I am down to the Alpha 87A serial port and the program does
> not connect to the serial port. I am using the same port number as before
> with windows 7 port 10 and 4800 baud and have tried other ports down to
> port number 1. I have tried the HB9 program with INTERMITTENT success.
> Anyone have the old 87A program working on Windows 8.1 64 bit and if so can
> you please send me the secret?
>
> You can contact me direct at n2bj@...
>
>
> Thanks
>
>
> 73
>
>
> Barry
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1531. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A Original Software doesn't work on Windows 8.1?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-04-03 12:04:59 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1529 Message: 1531

I have had no problem running W8.1 with the Alpha programs. I am currently running W8.0 because of a virus and I reverted to 8.0 on another hard drive.

I would first go to "device manager", "PORTS COM LPT ports" and write down the Com port numbers you're 8.1 sees.

I would then mark down the com ports that you know are used and working for any devices.

I would then try one of the identified unused com ports as available.

In my case I noted that the com port numbers assigned to com ports changed from W7 to W8.0 to W8.1.

George W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tadej Arcon
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 4:36 AM
To: alpha87a
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A Original Software doesn't work on Windows 8.1?

Have you try in Windows: right click - properties - Run this program in compatibility mode for: Win XP

73s Ted S52X

2014-04-03 0:29 GMT+02:00 <n2bj@...>:

I am trying to migrate to a new computer that has Windows 8.1

Been struggling with many of the older ham software programs with serial ports and now I am down to the Alpha 87A serial port and the program does not connect to the serial port. I am using the same port number as before with windows 7 port 10 and 4800 baud and have tried other ports down to port number 1. I have tried the HB9 program with INTERMITTENT success. Anyone have the old 87A program working on Windows 8.1 64 bit and if so can you please send me the secret?

You can contact me direct at n2bj@...

Thanks

73

Barry

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1532. HV Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-05-31 18:45:42 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1532 Message: 1532

Does anyone have the instructions for pulling the HV/LV board out of the 87a to look at the capacitors.

Mine was back to the factory in March for a Fault 9. It came back and worked fine until this week. I powered it up and it went through its 3 minute warm up. The moment it went from WAIT to STBY there was a pop and it shut down. I hooked up the computer and it showed a Fault 16.

I thought I would pull the HV board out and look at the caps.

Thoughts?

Larry, KN8N

1533. Fault 29

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-07-07 09:00:58 UTC
From: bob.5b4agn@...
Topic: 1533 Message: 1533

My 87A has suddenly developed a new problem which reveals as fault 29. According to the manual this indicates an attempt to transmit on an invalid frequency, typically 24 or 28MHz without unlocking 24-30MHz coverage. Needless to say this is not the cause of the problem as the amp has been in use across all HF bands for 20 years.

The problem appears associated with the frequency determining circuitry. Prior to faulting the amp retunes in chunks occasionally switching to a completely different band. After a few seconds of this it faults to 29.

I have taken the usual approach to unexplained faults applying DeoxIT to all mating connector pairs. All to no avail as the behaviour has been unaffected by my intervention. To eliminate the exciter as a possible cause I switched to an alternative transceiver. Behaviour was unchanged confirming the problem lies within the 87A.

A web search turned up nothing on fault 29 so I guess my problem is unusual. I am wondering whether anyone may have seen a similar problem and found a solution to it.

Your thoughts appreciated.

Many thanks

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1534. Re: HV Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-07-07 09:30:33 UTC
From: bob.5b4agn@...
Topic: 1532 Message: 1534

Larry

It is so long since you posted this I doubt you are still seeking a response but just in case.....

To remove the HV board you need to do the following:

Facing the front of the amp and looking down on the HV board.

1. Disconnect the ground connection to the chassis. Black wire near left.
2. Disconnect the red wire to the HV terminal, far left.
3. Remove the screw attaching underside wire at far right hand corner of PCB.
4. Disconnect the transformer HV connector and the three red connectors at near right.

The PCB is retained at three points.

5. Remove the large cross head screw and washer to the right of the transformer HV connector.
6. Remove the pair of screws and washers retaining the plastic clamps around the elevated 220k bleeder resistors.
7. Remove the pair of hexagonal spacers and associated washers to which the screws removed in step 6 were attached.

The HV assembly complete with its capacitor bank may now be lifted out.

Likely this is too late for you but may be of help to someone else.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1535. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: HV Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-07-07 20:54:08 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1532 Message: 1535

Hi Bob,

I took my 87a to a friend over by Chicago and he found the amp had arced on the top of the HV board and burnt one of the AC lines. So after studying the schematic, he moved the AC line and made an air-gap on the board.

It seems to be working good now.

I don't know what I would do with a fault 29. Maybe email the support staff at RF Concepts to see if they can give you some direction????

Larry, KN8N

On Monday, July 7, 2014 5:30 AM, "bob.5b4agn@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Larry

It is so long since you posted this I doubt you are still seeking a response but just in case.....

To remove the HV board you need to do the following:

Facing the front of the amp and looking down on the HV board.

1. Disconnect the ground connection to the chassis. Black wire near left.
2. Disconnect the red wire to the HV terminal, far left.
3. Remove the screw attaching underside wire at far right hand corner of PCB.
4. Disconnect the transformer HV connector and the three red connectors at near right.

The PCB is retained at three points.

5. Remove the large cross head screw and washer to the right of the transformer HV connector.
6. Remove the pair of screws and washers retaining the plastic clamps around the elevated 220k bleeder resistors.
7. Remove the pair of hexagonal spacers and associated washers to which the screws removed in step 6 were attached.

The HV assembly complete with its capacitor bank may now be lifted out.

Likely this is too late for you but may be of help to someone else.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1536. Explosive Arcing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-08-20 00:07:15 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1536 Message: 1536

Hello Alpha operators and technicians,

Shortly after I purchased my 87A a couple of years ago, a very loud arc occurred just as the warm-up period expired. I feared the worst, but since then it has functioned fine enabling me to work stations all over the world.

A few weeks ago I switched on the 87A in the hope of contacting a weak station. Waiting through the three minute warm-period was abruptly punctuated with a very loud report, and the 87A and DAS shutdown (without fault code indication, of course). I figured all was lost.

Later, I again toggled the POWER ON rocker just to see what would happen. To my amazement, all functioned nominally with no need to reset anything. A look at the hard and soft faults showed the most recent soft fault to be 17 and the hard fault 24. Hmmm... I'm a bit doubtful that the 87A had time to record a fault, but something did what appears to have been an orderly shutdown without blowing a fuse of emitting smoke.

Yesterday the arc occurred again. Because the 87A had operated okay after the earlier arc, I thought that it may have been caused by some internal dust accumulation or insect shorting the works as a result of month's period of non-operation, and I hoped the resulting arc may have blown the dust out. But obviously I was wrong about that. These arcs all occurred spontaneously at the end of the warm-up period without any exciter input.

So, now I'm planning on opening the 87A, and visually searching for any arc indications as a clue to the cause. I'm thinking that a good blow-out with compressed air may be helpful.

Searching for information regarding Alpha 87A arcing wasn't very fruitful:

http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2011-12/msg00123.html
http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2012-09/msg00090.html
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/311

so I'm hoping someone reading this may have some experience with 87A arcs and would kindly share their information with me and the group.

ADVthanksANCE

Best regards,
Larry

1537. Re: [Alpha87a] Explosive Arcing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-08-20 00:44:52 UTC
From: highschooldiving@yahoo.com
Topic: 1536 Message: 1537

I had a similar problem with a different older amp. The high voltage power supply capacitors were shorting to ground. KAPOWWWWW!!!! Paul w8jn

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1538. Re: [Alpha87a] Explosive Arcing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-08-20 04:18:11 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1536 Message: 1538

Sure hope that wasn't the one I got from you Paul... HIHI

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

On Tuesday, August 19, 2014 7:44 PM, "'highschooldiving@yahoo.com' highschooldiving@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

I had a similar problem with a different older amp. The high voltage power supply capacitors were shorting to ground. KAPOWWWWW!!!! Paul w8jn
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>;
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>;
Subject: [Alpha87a] Explosive Arcing
Sent: Wed, Aug 20, 2014 12:07:15 AM

Hello Alpha operators and technicians,

Shortly after I purchased my 87A a couple of years ago, a very loud arc occurred just as the warm-up period expired. I feared the worst, but since then it has functioned fine enabling me to work stations all over the world.

A few weeks ago I switched on the 87A in the hope of contacting a weak station. Waiting through the three minute warm-period was abruptly punctuated with a very loud report, and the 87A and DAS shutdown (without fault code indication, of course). I figured all was lost.

Later, I again toggled the POWER ON rocker just to see what would happen. To my amazement, all functioned nominally with no need to reset anything. A look at the hard and soft faults showed the most recent soft fault to be 17 and the hard fault 24. Hmmm... I'm a bit doubtful that the 87A had time to record a fault, but something did what appears to have been an orderly shutdown without blowing a fuse of emitting smoke.

Yesterday the arc occurred again. Because the 87A had operated okay after the earlier arc, I thought that it may have been caused by some internal dust accumulation or insect shorting the works as a result of month's period of non-operation, and I hoped the resulting arc may have blown the dust out. But obviously I was wrong about that. These arcs all occurred spontaneously at the end of the warm-up period without any exciter input.

So, now I'm planning on opening the 87A, and visually searching for any arc indications as a clue to the cause. I'm thinking that a good blow-out with compressed air may be helpful.

Searching for information regarding Alpha 87A arcing wasn't very fruitful:

http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2011-12/msg00123.html
http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2012-09/msg00090.html
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/311

so I'm hoping someone reading this may have some experience with 87A arcs and would kindly share their information with me and the group.

ADVthanksANCE

Best regards,
Larry

1539. Re: [Alpha87a] Explosive Arcing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-08-20 04:47:21 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1536 Message: 1539

Hello Larry,

The 87A switches the HV from low setting (about 1600vdc) to high (about 2700v) at the end of the warmup period if the HV switch is set to HI, which is where it should always be. So the arc is occurring just as the HV goes high.

I would suggest doing as you said, removing the cover and blowing it out, and pay particular attention to the small RF choke and yellow (or orange) HV bypass capacitors that are in the HV path on the RF side of the center partition. The RF choke is just below the solenoid that shorts out the top of the vertical plate choke, The RF choke is about an inch long and positioned horizontally, one end may be too close to the center chassis.

Glenn AE0Q
RF Concepts

On Tue, Aug 19, 2014 at 7:07 PM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Hello Alpha operators and technicians,
>
> Shortly after I purchased my 87A a couple of years ago, a very loud arc
> occurred just as the warm-up period expired. I feared the worst, but since
> then it has functioned fine enabling me to work stations all over the
> world.
>
> A few weeks ago I switched on the 87A in the hope of contacting a weak
> station.
> Waiting through the three minute warm-period was abruptly punctuated with a
> very loud report, and the 87A and DAS shutdown (without fault code
> indication,
> of course). I figured all was lost.
>
> Later, I again toggled the POWER ON rocker just to see what would happen.
> To
> my amazement, all functioned nominally with no need to reset anything. A
> look
> at the hard and soft faults showed the most recent soft fault to be 17 and
> the
> hard fault 24. Hmmm... I'm a bit doubtful that the 87A had time to record a
> fault, but something did what appears to have been an orderly shutdown
> without
> blowing a fuse of emitting smoke.
>
> Yesterday the arc occurred again. Because the 87A had operated okay after

> the
> earlier arc, I thought that it may have been caused by some internal dust
> accumulation or insect shorting the works as a result of month's period of
> non-operation, and I hoped the resulting arc may have blown the dust out.
> But
> obviously I was wrong about that. These arcs all occurred spontaneously at
> the
> end of the warm-up period without any exciter input.
>
> So, now I'm planning on opening the 87A, and visually searching for any arc
> indications as a clue to the cause. I'm thinking that a good blow-out with
> compressed air may be helpful.
>
> <snip>
>
Best regards,
> Larry
>

1540. Re: [Alpha87a] Explosive Arcing

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-08-20 06:32:24 UTC
From: highschooldiving@yahoo.com
Topic: 1536 Message: 1540

Sb220!!!!. Cy, you got a good one hihi!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

1541. 87A Fault 02

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-06 10:16:27 UTC
From: james.nail@...
Topic: 1541 Message: 1541

Hi Folks,
I powered up the 87A after just using it the previous day and had a Hard Fault 02, indicating low 5V. I suspect some stray current on the AC line may have caused some damage even though I have it protected with ICE #338 220V Voltage Suppression. Any ideas on what may be the cause of this one? I don't see any fuse on the +5v line. I didn't see anyone reporting a HF 02 in this group.
Jim WA2MBP

1542. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Fault 02

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-06 18:04:44 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1541 Message: 1542

Hello Jim,

I searched here: <http://asktheham.com/>, but was unable to find anything about Fault 2.

73,
Larry

On 06 Sep 2014 03:16:27 -0700, "james.nail@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi Folks,
> I powered up the 87A after just using it the previous day and had a Hard Fault 02, indicating low 5V. I suspect some stray current on the AC line may have caused some damage even though I have it protected with ICE #338 220V Voltage Suppression. Any ideas on what may be the cause of this one? I don't see any fuse on the +5v line. I didn't see anyone reporting a HF 02 in this group.
> Jim WA2MBP

1543. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A Fault 02

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-06 19:27:56 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1541 Message: 1543

I would check the LVPS board.

Tadej Arcon
Sent from my Iphone

> On 6. sep. 2014, at 20:04, "Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
> Hello Jim,
>
> I searched here: <http://asktheham.com/>, but was unable to find anything about
> Fault 2.
>
> 73,
> Larry
>
> On 06 Sep 2014 03:16:27 -0700, "james.nail@... [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Hi Folks,
> > I powered up the 87A after just using it the previous day and had a Hard Fault 02, indicating low 5V. I suspect some stray current on the AC line may have caused some damage even though I have it protected with ICE #338 220V Voltage Suppression. Any ideas on what may be the cause of this one? I don't see any fuse on the +5v line. I didn't see anyone reporting a HF 02 in this group.
> > Jim WA2MBP
>

1544. Re: 87A Fault 02

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 01:42:11 UTC
From: james.nail@...
Topic: 1541 Message: 1544

I checked the voltage at J3-1 on the control board as suggested and the voltage (with microswitch down) reads 4.94 vdc exactly as the spec says. The comm works fine also:

```
ALPHA 87A
VERSION 1.00-AT
COPYRIGHT 1992, 1999
ALPHA/POWER, INC.
VER. = 1.00-AT
HFAULT LOG = 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0
SFAULT LOG = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

Anyone have any other ideas about Fault 2?

Jim WA2MBP

1545. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 02

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 14:03:07 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1541 Message: 1545

There is a 0.5A fuse in the Aux +5V supply on the AC Power Board in the schematic. (I may have the name of that board incorrect, as this is from memory.)

On 08 Sep 2014 18:42:11 -0700, "james.nail@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I checked the voltage at J3-1 on the control board as suggested and the voltage (with microswitch down) reads 4.94 vdc exactly as the spec says. The comm works fine also:
>
>
> ALPHA 87A
>VERSION 1.00-AT
>COPYRIGHT 1992, 1999
>ALPHA/POWER, INC.
> VER. = 1.00-AT
>HFAULT LOG = 2 2 2 0 0 0 0 0
>SFAULT LOG = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
>
>
> Anyone have any other ideas about Fault 2?
>
>
> Jim WA2MBP
>

1546. Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 14:18:11 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1546 Message: 1546

I have a chance to pick up an 87a that a friend has. I've worked on it before. In the last ~25 years, the output pins have failed four times. Has anyone had experience converting the amplifier over to relays?
Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly converting it over to pins as well.

Jim - KR9U

1547. RE: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 15:21:11 UTC
From: MICHAEL HUGHES
Topic: 1546 Message: 1547

Jim,

You might ask if anyone has found other PIN diodes to use as replacements. Not sure but I think I have heard mention of that here.

Mike, NY9Y

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Tue, 9 Sep 2014 07:18:11 -0700
Subject: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

I have a chance to pick up an 87a that a friend has. I've worked on it before. In the last ~25 years, the output pins have failed four times. Has anyone had experience converting the amplifier over to relays?
Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly converting it over to pins as well.

Jim - KR9U

1548. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 15:31:59 UTC
From: David Bunte
Topic: 1546 Message: 1548

Jim -

I am getting ready to send the 87A, owned by W9FAM, to Georgia for repair, due to a pin diode fault (Fault 8). If it is, in fact the pin diodes, rather than a power supply issue, he will replace them... I am not sure if he uses original equipment diodes, or if he has found something else, but Vern wants his amp fixed right, and this guy will do it... I am just not capable of tackling that job.

I exchanged email with a guy in Illinois, who is offered to replace the pin diodes with a vacuum relay, for about $1000. He has done it before, but did point out that part of the cost is adding the circuitry to "fool" the cpu in the amp, so it does not return a "Fault 8" and refuse to operate.

I also exchanged email with RF Concepts about the issue. They say that a vacuum relay will not do clean QSK above about 50 wpm, which would be unacceptable to W9FAM. I have a couple of friends withe 9500s, and neither of them works QSK, but they both say the vacuum relay in that amp is way to loud for QSK at any speed.

Some folks like QSK... to others it does not matter. I can't imagine not having it... and I love it on my K3/KPA500 combo... and when I have been over at W9FAM, it sure was nice to use it with his 7800 & 87A.

If you want to contact the guy in Illinois to pick his brain about the vacuum relay approach, I will try to dig up his email. The guy in Georgia is N4UQ.

Best of luck.

Dave - K9FN

On Tue, Sep 9, 2014 at 11:21 AM, MICHAEL HUGHES mhughes149@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Jim,
>
> You might ask if anyone has found other PIN diodes to use as
> replacements. Not sure but I think I have heard mention of that here.
>
> Mike, NY9Y
>
> ----------
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> From: Alpha87a@...m

> Date: Tue, 9 Sep 2014 07:18:11 -0700
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays
>
>
>
> I have a chance to pick up an 87a that a friend has. I've worked on it
> before. In the last ~25 years, the output pins have failed four times.
> Has anyone had experience converting the amplifier over to relays?
> Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly
> converting it over to pins as well.
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>
>

1549. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 16:04:35 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1546 Message: 1549

N4UQ is more than capable of ensuring 50+ WPM from a vacuum relay. However, I would opt for the PIN diode repair and update the 87A to the higher Rx bias voltage string.

If I was going to spend anywhere near $1K on a vacuum relay mod I would just update the 87A.

Paul, W9AC

Sent from my iPhone5

> On Sep 9, 2014, at 11:31 AM, "David Bunte dpbunte@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Jim -
>
> I am getting ready to send the 87A, owned by W9FAM, to Georgia for repair, due to a pin diode fault (Fault 8). If it is, in fact the pin diodes, rather than a power supply issue, he will replace them... I am not sure if he uses original equipment diodes, or if he has found something else, but Vern wants his amp fixed right, and this guy will do it... I am just not capable of tackling that job.
>
> I exchanged email with a guy in Illinois, who is offered to replace the pin diodes with a vacuum relay, for about $1000. He has done it before, but did point out that part of the cost is adding the circuitry to "fool" the cpu in the amp, so it does not return a "Fault 8" and refuse to operate.
>
> I also exchanged email with RF Concepts about the issue. They say that a vacuum relay will not do clean QSK above about 50 wpm, which would be unacceptable to W9FAM. I have a couple of friends withe 9500s, and neither of them works QSK, but they both say the vacuum relay in that amp is way to loud for QSK at any speed.
>
> Some folks like QSK... to others it does not matter. I can't imagine not having it... and I love it on my K3/KPA500 combo... and when I have been over at W9FAM, it sure was nice to use it with his 7800 & 87A.
>
> If you want to contact the guy in Illinois to pick his brain about the vacuum relay approach, I will try to dig up his email. The guy in Georgia is N4UQ.
>
> Best of luck.
>
> Dave - K9FN
>
>> On Tue, Sep 9, 2014 at 11:21 AM, MICHAEL HUGHES mhughes149@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>>
>> Jim,

>>
>> You might ask if anyone has found other PIN diodes to use as replacements. Not sure but I think I have heard mention of that here.
>>
>> Mike, NY9Y
>>
>> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>> Date: Tue, 9 Sep 2014 07:18:11 -0700
>> Subject: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays
>>
>>
>> I have a chance to pick up an 87a that a friend has. I've worked on it before. In the last ~25 years, the output pins have failed four times. Has anyone had experience converting the amplifier over to relays?
>> Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly converting it over to pins as well.
>>
>> Jim - KR9U
>>
>
>

1550. RE: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 16:34:31 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1546 Message: 1550

Hi Dave and Mike,

Sure, I know W9FAM. He use to have the 400 ft FM Commercial tower in Kokomo that I used to relay PacketCluster through to Indy from Fort Wayne before Internet, the tower came down in the big ice storm.

I’m just looking at possibilities of improving the output Pin Circuit for any future failures. QSK is certainly nice and I don’t have it on my current amp, but I can use it when listening on low band loops etc.

Ah, the fault problem when switching from diodes.

My initial thought would be to leave all that circuitry in place and let it switch nothing and reroute the RF through the mechanical relays, which I would think would eliminate that problem.

I would be very curious to know if there has been success in switching to another Pin Diode that is less likely to fail. If you get any information on this, please let me know. If you do find the contact info for the person in Illinois, I would appreciate that too. < 50 WPM is fine with me.

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 11:32 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Jim -

I am getting ready to send the 87A, owned by W9FAM, to Georgia for repair, due to a pin diode fault (Fault 8). If it is, in fact the pin diodes, rather than a power supply issue, he will replace them... I am not sure if he uses original equipment diodes, or if he has found something else, but Vern wants his amp fixed right, and this guy will do it... I am just not capable of tackling that job.

I exchanged email with a guy in Illinois, who is offered to replace the pin diodes with a vacuum relay, for about $1000. He has done it before, but did point out that part of the cost is adding the circuitry to "fool" the cpu in the amp, so it does not return a "Fault 8" and refuse to operate.

I also exchanged email with RF Concepts about the issue. They say that a vacuum relay will not do clean QSK above about 50 wpm, which would be unacceptable to W9FAM. I have a couple of friends withe 9500s, and neither of them works QSK, but they both say the vacuum relay in that amp is way to loud for QSK at any speed.

Some folks like QSK... to others it does not matter. I can't imagine not having it... and I love it on my K3/KPA500 combo... and when I have been over at W9FAM, it sure was nice to

use it with his 7800 & 87A.

If you want to contact the guy in Illinois to pick his brain about the vacuum relay approach, I will try to dig up his email. The guy in Georgia is N4UQ.

Best of luck.

Dave - K9FN

On Tue, Sep 9, 2014 at 11:21 AM, MICHAEL HUGHES mhughes149@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Jim,

You might ask if anyone has found other PIN diodes to use as replacements. Not sure but I think I have heard mention of that here.

Mike, NY9Y

I have a chance to pick up an 87a that a friend has. I've worked on it before. In the last ~25 years, the output pins have failed four times. Has anyone had experience converting the amplifier over to relays?
Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly converting it over to pins as well.

Jim - KR9U

1551. RE: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 16:40:41 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1546 Message: 1551

Paul,

Yes, $125 for a new set of diodes is certainly a better deal than a $1000 mod for relays. The Amp has the latest upgrades installed by Alpha, the latest being this last spring.

However, If I had the information and could do the conversion myself, that might be an option. Currently the amp has failed again and is in need of new output diodes.

Thanks,

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:05 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

N4UQ is more than capable of ensuring 50+ WPM from a vacuum relay. However, I would opt for the PIN diode repair and update the 87A to the higher Rx bias voltage string.

If I was going to spend anywhere near $1K on a vacuum relay mod I would just update the 87A.

Paul, W9AC

Sent from my iPhone5

On Sep 9, 2014, at 11:31 AM, "David Bunte dpbunte@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

1552. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 17:19:54 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1546 Message: 1552

I've had my 87A for many years with very few problems. The QSK has been good and the PIN diodes have never failed. When Alpha announced the 9500 I considered their generous trade-in offer. But I listened to a 9500 at a friend's house and found it unusable on CW. The vacuum relay was so loud that it was difficult to hear the monitor tone and to send CW, even without QSK, even with headphones. Also, the blower was loud even downstairs from the ham shack. It's just not for me, a dedicated CW op.

In conversation with the helpful and friendly people at Alpha, I asked why they abandoned PIN diode and went with vacuum relay in the 9500. They explained that many customers had had problems like yours with the 87A PIN diodes, even though most had success like I have had. As an engineer, I have to ask why some work flawlessly and others have repetitive failures, but they had no answer to that question.

Another question is why Alpha's vac relay in the 9500 is so loud. I also have an ACOM 1000 and its vac relay is silent. QSK is as good as it is with the 87A. And its fan is very quiet, too.

GL & 73,

/Rick N6XI

On 9/9/2014 7:18 AM, jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

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Good idea or bad idea? I see the 9500 has relays, but they are possibly converting it over to pins as well.

Jim - KR9U

1553. RE: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-09 17:37:26 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1546 Message: 1553
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

There is a heavier duty RF pin diode but the threaded cathode is slightly bigger. I posted a picture to the group a while back comparing so I am attaching it again. It would require some very minor work to make it fit (enlarging a 4-40 hole to 6-32). I have a few of these if anyone is interested. I think I paid less than the UM4006D's.

Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 12:35
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Hi Dave and Mike,

Sure, I know W9FAM. He use to have the 400 ft FM Commercial tower in Kokomo that I used to relay PacketCluster through to Indy from Fort Wayne before Internet, the tower came down in the big ice storm.
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Jim – KR9U

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

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Jim - KR9U

1554. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-10 10:04:55 UTC
From: bob.5b4agn@...
Topic: 1546 Message: 1554

My experience largely mirrors your own Rick. The output pins in my 87A have not failed in 20 years heavy use. I have replaced a few input pins due to them having become leaky. I believe this to be the more common pin diode problem. My regret is not having been advised sooner I could replace these with common or garden variety 1N4007. If I had there would be more money in my bank account.

Why do some 87As suffer sequential failure of output pins while others never seem to fail?

My best guess is static discharge. Although the 87A has built-in protection provided via a gas discharge tube these can leak the gas relied upon for effective operation or can fail after a number of strikes.

If while not in use an 87A is attached to an antenna the owner will never know how often a discharge takes place. Once the discharge tube is worn out the next discharge may well destroy the output pins.

Disconnection of antenna when not in use coupled with scheduled replacement of the gas discharge tube may be enough to secure long life.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1555. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-10 11:07:40 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1546 Message: 1555

Bob,

We typically see 1N4007s being used in low power applications but I've never seen a carrier lifetime spec for a 1N4007. I would be concerned about the 160m diode conduction cycle, especially at high power where line voltages rise to the 1KV level under conditions of high SWR (e.g., an open antenna port). As frequency is lowered, a PIN diode starts taking on the characteristics of the common PN diode. If 1N4007s were 100% compatible at 1.8 MHz in either the receive or transmit paths, I have to believe MFJ would have been using them long ago in the Ameritron QSK-5 unit.

Paul, W9AC

From: mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:04 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

My experience largely mirrors your own Rick. The output pins in my 87A have not failed in 20 years heavy use. I have replaced a few input pins due to them having become leaky. I believe this to be the more common pin diode problem. My regret is not having been advised sooner I could replace these with common or garden variety 1N4007. If I had there would be more money in my bank account.

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Disconnection of antenna when not in use coupled with scheduled replacement of the gas discharge tube may be enough to secure long life.

73 Bob, 5B4AGN

1556. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-10 11:50:59 UTC
From: bob.5b4agn@...
Topic: 1546 Message: 1556

Paul

I believe the 1N4007 was suggested by RF Concepts as a substitute for the now largely unobtainable KS1001. At the input the 87A uses two diodes in series with voltage equalising resistors. The nervous might opt for the 1N5408 with a 3A rating. I have used these with considerable success at >100W on 160m.

Bob 5B4AGN

1557. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-10 11:57:57 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1546 Message: 1557

Bob,

Thanks for the feedback. I've been purchasing spare high power PIN diodes as they come up on the surplus market but I'll try testing the 1N4007s with my S-QSK project.

Paul, W9AC

From: mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Paul

I believe the 1N4007 was suggested by RF Concepts as a substitute for the now largely unobtainable KS1001. At the input the 87A uses two diodes in series with voltage equalising resistors. The nervous might opt for the 1N5408 with a 3A rating. I have used these with considerable success at >100W on 160m.

Bob 5B4AGN

1558. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-10 13:18:35 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1546 Message: 1558

This is a nice summary of one person’s PIN diode problem and his journey to the right fix:

http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html

From: mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Paul

I believe the 1N4007 was suggested by RF Concepts as a substitute for the now largely unobtainable KS1001. At the input the 87A uses two diodes in series with voltage equalising resistors. The nervous might opt for the 1N5408 with a 3A rating. I have used these with considerable success at >100W on 160m.

Bob 5B4AGN

1559. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-11 07:40:19 UTC
From: bob.5b4agn@...
Topic: 1546 Message: 1559

Brian's problem was with receive not the transmit PINs which are mounted on the chassis rear skirt. This 87A must have been a very early production unit. Mine was purchased mid '94 and was fitted with the KS1001 PINs and the zener chain on the HVPS board.

Bob, 5B4AGN

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w9ac@...> wrote :

This is a nice summary of one person’s PIN diode problem and his journey to the right fix:

http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html
http://www.n9adg.com/articles/amplifiers/alpha-87a-fault-1/downlevel-modification.html

From: mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 7:50 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Paul

I believe the 1N4007 was suggested by RF Concepts as a substitute for the now largely unobtainable KS1001. At the input the 87A uses two diodes in series with voltage equalising resistors. The nervous might opt for the 1N5408 with a 3A rating. I have used these with considerable success at >100W on 160m.

Bob 5B4AGN

1560. Re: [Alpha87a] Converting Pins to Relays

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-12 17:28:06 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1546 Message: 1560

If you've experienced repeated failure of one or both transmit PIN diodes, check L1 on the T/R board. It could be arcing, which causes obscure faults and can be lethal to the PIN diodes.

This is likely to be a problem that shows up suddenly in older units. My 1995-vintage 87A never had a transmit PIN diode problem until a couple of years ago. I got weird, inexplicable faults (my recollection is #8, #9 and maybe #11.) Eventually, one of the two transmit PIN diodes crapped out. When I replaced it, the amp worked fine up to just under 1500W, then would fault (again, I think it was a #8 or #9). I replaced the other PIN diode, but that didn't fix the problem.

As I was speaking with Glenn of RF Concepts on the phone about the issue, Brian happened to be passing by and said, "Tell him to check L1 on the T/R board." Sure enough, I found carbon on a nearby screw, and when I rocked L1 back a little I saw that arcs from it had punched a hole clear through the PCB! The problem was that the rubber insulator underneath L1 had disintegrated with age. I removed L1, replaced the insulator with some comparable rubber stock I had lying around, rewound L1, and the amp has worked perfectly from that point on.

And now I have a spare transmit PIN diode... :-) (and no, it's not for sale)

73, Dick WC1M

1561. Soft Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-29 03:19:14 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1561 Message: 1561

I'm getting a soft fault code 20 when I initially turn on the amp. The manual states that the cause is possibly a shorted filament. This fault has increased over the last few weeks. Occasionally I will have to turn it on up to three times. After the warm up period the amp acts normal. Has anyone had an experience with this kind of fault that was not a tube problem?

The next step is to remove the tubes and put them on the bench so I can measure the filament current of each tube to see if they are within the Eimac limit of 1.5A ea.

Jim, KR9U

1562. RE: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-29 12:01:00 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1561 Message: 1562

Jim,

There was some good advice posted a few years back. Here is what I have from the op who got it direct from Glenn at RF Concepts. Having two 87A I took the time to collate all the available Fault repair notes for moments like this hihi

73 Jerry
K1JOS

****
We have found that reseating the connectors on circuit boards may stop the erroneous filament current readings.

Stand the 87A on the right-hand side and remove the plate under the tube-deck. Unplug and carefully reconnect the plugs inside the tube deck. Also reseat the orange connector on the LVPS (Low Voltage Power Supply) directly in front of the power transformer, and just above the bottom orange connector that is on one of the transformer cables. Use Caig DeOxit contact cleaner (available at Radio Shack) on those connectors to ensure a better contact.

Reseat the two large red connectors on the top edge of the control board. They are accessable through the slot in the top-right side of the front sub-chassis (behind the LED bargraph displays).

The Fault 20 may indicate a bad tube or a metering resistor that has aged and changed value. With a computer connected to the 87A serial port you can use the following commands to see what the filament current is (they are always followed by the ENTER key):

Type EXT ON (ENTER) , this puts the amp in the 'factory mode' and will let it accept the next command.

Type ADS FIL (ENTER) numerous times and record the readings. This will give you the filament current. It will read some filament current even when the 87A is turned off, this is normal and is not a 'real' number because the tubes are turned off.
The fault limit is 4.0 amps.

When you are done testing, type EXT OFF to turn off the 'factory mode' so that no wrong commands will accidentally be written to the microprocessor."

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Radio Products

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2014 23:19

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Soft Fault 20

I'm getting a soft fault code 20 when I initially turn on the amp. The manual states that the cause is possibly a shorted filament. This fault has increased over the last few weeks. Occasionally I will have to turn it on up to three times. After the warm up period the amp acts normal. Has anyone had an experience with this kind of fault that was not a tube problem?

The next step is to remove the tubes and put them on the bench so I can measure the filament current of each tube to see if they are within the Eimac limit of 1.5A ea.

Jim, KR9U

1563. Re Soft Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-09-29 23:52:33 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1563 Message: 1563

Thanks Jerry and that responded.

It appears so far that reseating the mentioned plugs has resolved the problem.
That's much better than shot-gunning a fix with new tubes.

Thanks again,

Jim - KR9U

1564. 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-15 22:32:33 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1564 Message: 1564

Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio) that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking into the amp?
If I want to recreate this coax, what velocity factor do I use?

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

1565. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 02:03:55 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1564 Message: 1565

Can't imagine it making any difference. There are smarter guys out there, tho. I've used all sorts of jumpers between many rigs and my 87A.

Rick

--
Rick Tavan
iPhone

> On Oct 15, 2014, at 12:32 PM, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio) that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking into the amp?
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> If I want to recreate this coax, what velocity factor do I use?
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>
>
> Thanks,
>
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>

1566. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 02:20:55 UTC
From: Dennis Klipa
Topic: 1564 Message: 1566

Jim,

There is nothing magical about the 6 foot cable. Just a convenient length. Some folks run their amp in a seperate room with a longer length of coax so they don't have to listen to the fan. Just use high quality coax that can handle the power of whatever length you need in order to get the job done.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF
On Oct 15, 2014 6:32 PM, "jbwolf@comcast.net [Alpha87a]" <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio)
> that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking
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>
> Thanks,
>
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>

1567. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 02:39:01 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1564 Message: 1567

All,

I wondered, because the manual says "connect *a* 72" piece of coax [supplied]....", not *the* [supplied] 72" piece of coax.
The only thing I could think of is that 72" is close to a 1/4 wave on 10 meters, and that might transform a poor impedance to one a radio likes. However, that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense either. I just wondered if there was something magical about that length that this amp/radio system preferred.

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

1568. RE: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 03:32:32 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1564 Message: 1568

Check out this thread on the 3CX800A7 and input coax particularly the comment by W8JI:

http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,68615.0.html

It seems for the 10m end of the Amp, the length of cox to the amp’s tuned input circuits changes the capacitance seen by the finals. Same situation seen with other Amps like the Collins 30S-1 where a specific length of coax from exciter to amp was recommended. I don’t think it makes much difference except in maybe needed more to drive the finals and possibly poorer IMD.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 22:39
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

All,

I wondered, because the manual says "connect *a* 72" piece of coax [supplied]....", not *the* [supplied] 72" piece of coax.
The only thing I could think of is that 72" is close to a 1/4 wave on 10 meters, and that might transform a poor impedance to one a radio likes. However, that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense either. I just wondered if there was something magical about that length that this amp/radio system preferred.

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

1569. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 12:28:41 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1564 Message: 1569

With the Alpha 87A and 89 amps the length of coax from radio to amp has little effect on the input SWR or amp tuning because both amps have tuned input circuits for each band via a separate bandswitch wafer inside the tubedeck.

The Alpha 76A/78/374A do not have a tuned input for each band so the radio-amp coax should be kept to 4 feet or less or the input SWR "seen" by the radio gets higher.

The tetrode Alpha amps (91B/99/8100/8410) have a 50 ohm resistor in the amp for a load for the radio.

Glenn AE0Q

On Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 4:32 PM, jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio)
> that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking
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http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1570. RE: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 15:48:42 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1564 Message: 1570

Thanks Jerry for the discussion thread.

Very interesting that the input circuitry can have that much effect on efficiency. Since the 3CX800 is really more of a VHF/UHF tube, it may behave somewhat different than tubes made for the lower frequencies with less power roll-off up through 10 meters.

I don't see an efficiency issue. However, I think I'll just play around with different coax lengths and see if that doesn't improve the input VSWR as neither the Radio output or the amp input are likely to be exactly 50 ohms, let alone on all frequencies.

Thanks again,

Jim - KR9U

1571. Re: [Alpha87a] Digest Number 545

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-16 18:21:38 UTC
From: catfishtwo@...
Topic: 1571 Message: 1571

I always grab a cable long enough to go from the radio to the amp out of the short coax cable box, and use it. I have been using this short cable, (about 14 inches or so) for 5 or more years from the orion to the 87 a, no prolems, ever. YMMV

tom N6AJR

In a message dated 10/16/2014 12:23:43 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com writes:

(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcWc4aGM5BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTQxMzQ0NDIyMw--)
_Alpha 87A Amplifiers Group _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/info;_ylc=X3oDMTJlOTg3OWMzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDaGRyBHNsawNocGgEc3RpbWUDMTQxMzQ0NDIyMw--)

5 Messages
Digest #545

1a
_72" Coax Cable? _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#1a) by james_seawolf

1b
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#1b) by "Rick Tavan" rtavan

1c
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#1c) by "Dennis Klipa" klipadkk

1d
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#1d) by james_seawolf

1e
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#1e) by "Jerry" jsternmd@...

Messages

1a
_72" Coax Cable? _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTJydmN0dW40BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY0BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-)

Wed Oct 15, 2014 3:32 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
_james_seawolf _
(mailto:jbwolf@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?)

Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio)
that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking
into the amp?
If I want to recreate this coax, what velocity factor do I use?

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:jbwolf@comcast.net?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply via Web Post
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTJyOXI
1MHBmBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1
BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY0BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNs
awNycGx5BHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-?act=reply&messageNum=1564) . _All Messages
(5) _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTM2OXVta
XEzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwN
TA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY0BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjMEdHBjS
WQDMTU2NA--) . _Top ^ _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#toc)

1b
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1565;_ylc=X3oDMTJyNzV2a
2thBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0
BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY1BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzE0
MTM0NDQyMjM-)

Wed Oct 15, 2014 7:04 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
_"Rick Tavan" rtavan _
(mailto:rick@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?)

Can't imagine it making any difference. There are smarter guys out there,
tho. I've used all sorts of jumpers between many rigs and my 87A.

Rick

--
Rick Tavan
iPhone

> On Oct 15, 2014, at 12:32 PM, "jbwolf@...t [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the
radio) that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking
into the amp?
>

> If I want to recreate this coax, what velocity factor do I use?
>
>
>
> Thanks,
>
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:rick@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply via Web Post
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1565;_ylc=X3oDMTJyYTF
yNmxqBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdy
cElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY1BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawNy
cGx5BHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-?act=reply&messageNum=1565) . _All Messages (5)
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTM2NmVrb
GJqBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2M
zEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY1BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjMEdHBjSWQDM
TU2NA--) . _Top ^ _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#toc)

1c
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1566;_ylc=X3oDMTJyN29ia
zJmBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0
BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY2BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzE0
MTM0NDQyMjM-)

Wed Oct 15, 2014 7:20 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
_"Dennis Klipa" klipadkk _
(mailto:klipadk@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?)

Jim,

There is nothing magical about the 6 foot cable. Just a convenient
length. Some folks run their amp in a seperate room with a longer length
of coax so they don't have to listen to the fan. Just use high quality
coax that can handle the power of whatever length you need in order to get
the job done.

Best Regards,
Dennis, N8ERF
On Oct 15, 2014 6:32 PM, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]" <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Is there a magic length of coax (manual says 72" supplied with the radio)

> that goes between the radio and the amplifier? Is it an SWR issue looking
> into the amp?
>
> If I want to recreate this coax, what velocity factor do I use?
>
>
>
> Thanks,
>
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:klipadk@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply via Web Post
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1566;_ylc=X3oDMTJyazJ
qZTlhBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1B
GdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY2BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsa
wNycGx5BHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-?act=reply&messageNum=1566) . _All Messages
(5) _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTM2ZXEyZ
mk5BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNT
A2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY2BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjMEdHBjSW
QDMTU2NA--) . _Top ^ _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#toc)

1d
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1567;_ylc=X3oDMTJydDFnc
m0wBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0
BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY3BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzE0
MTM0NDQyMjM-)

Wed Oct 15, 2014 7:39 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
_james_seawolf _
(mailto:jbwolf@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?)

All,

I wondered, because the manual says "connect *a* 72" piece of coax
[supplied]..I wondered, because the manual says "connect
The only thing I could think of is that 72" is close to a 1/4 wave on 10
meters, and that might transform a poor impedance to one a radio likes.
However, that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense either. I just wondered if
there was something magical about that length that this amp/radio system
preferred.

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:jbwolf@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply via Web Post
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1567;_ylc=X3oDMTJyMDJ
ldmlxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1
BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY3BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNs
awNycGx5BHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-?act=reply&messageNum=1567) . _All Messages
(5) _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTM2ZXBid
TFhBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwN
TA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY3BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjMEdHBjS
WQDMTU2NA--) . _Top ^ _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#toc)

1e
_Re: 72" Coax Cable? _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1568;_ylc=X3oDMTJyZWloY
nJsBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0
BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY4BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzE0
MTM0NDQyMjM-)

Wed Oct 15, 2014 8:32 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
_"Jerry" jsternmd@... _
(mailto:jsternmd@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?)

Check out this thread on the 3CX800A7 and input coax particularly the
comment by W8JI:

http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,68615.0.html

It seems for the 10m end of the Amp, the length of cox to the amp’s tuned
input circuits changes the capacitance seen by the finals. Same situation
seen with other Amps like the Collins 30S-1 where a specific length of coax
from exciter to amp was recommended. I don’t think it makes much difference
except in maybe needed more to drive the finals and possibly poorer IMD.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 22:39
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

All,

I wondered, because the manual says "connect *a* 72" piece of coax
[supplied]..I wondered, because the manual says "connect
The only thing I could think of is that 72" is close to a 1/4 wave on 10
meters, and that might transform a poor impedance to one a radio likes.
However, that doesn't seem to make a lot of sense either. I just wondered if
there was something magical about that length that this amp/radio system
preferred.

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

_Reply to sender _
(mailto:jsternmd@...?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply to group _
(mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re:%2072"%20Coax%20Cable?) . _Reply via Web Post
_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1568;_ylc=X3oDMTJyZGp
hcnY1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BG
dycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY4BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsaw
NycGx5BHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-?act=reply&messageNum=1568) . _All Messages
(5) _
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1564;_ylc=X3oDMTM2MzEzd
XU0BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA
2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxNTY4BHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2dHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjMEdHBjSWQ
DMTU2NA--) . _Top ^ _ (mip://0c256660/default.html#toc)

Visit Your Group
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/info;_ylc=X3oDMTJmODliZGUxBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BG
dycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEw
OARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzE0MTM0NDQyMjM-)
* _New Members_
(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/members/all;_ylc=X3oDMTJnMXE4aWxwBF9TAzk3MzU
5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMT
cwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2bWJycwRzdGltZQMxNDEzNDQ0MjIz) 1

(https://groups.yahoo.com/neo;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcWc4aGM5BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGd
ycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTQxMzQ0
NDIyMw--)
• _Privacy_ (https://info.yahoo.com/privacy/us/yahoo/groups/details.html)
• _Unsubscribe_
(mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe) • _Terms of Use_
(https://info.yahoo.com/legal/us/yahoo/utos/terms/)

1572. Reasonable Cost Source for Alpha 87A High Power TX Pin Diode UM4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-17 19:57:16 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1572 Message: 1572
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

After years of limited supply of these TX pin diodes, I recently found that Arrow Electronics is selling these with a minimum purchase of a pair for about $42 a piece. These are new MicroSemi UM4006D components. If you are keeping your Alpha 87A's you may want to stock a pair or two. I have no financial interest in this company but they appear to have a hefty stash of > 300 pieces available for shipping.

Here is the link:

https://www.verical.com/part/660830-UM4006D#landingPage=catalogItemView
<https://www.verical.com/part/660830-UM4006D#landingPage=catalogItemView&sea
rchCriterion=mpnIDs&searchName=&searchTerm=660830&_i_=1>
&searchCriterion=mpnIDs&searchName=&searchTerm=660830&_i_=1

I am also attaching the pin diode spec comparison I did a while back. The MA4P4006D, UM4006D and UM2106D shown on the right side of the picture are the replacements that RF Concepts have sold me in the past. DO NOT USE the middle "CR" package as the anode and cathode are reversed. These are frequently available and very inexpensive but WRONG polarity for the 87A.

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1573. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-18 00:36:40 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1564 Message: 1573

Glenn,

I agree that the length of coax theoretically should not change the VSWR that the radio sees. That being the case, the VSWR on 10m meters is up around 1.7:1 and 1.8:1. Would you suggest trying to adjust either L1, which is the 2 turn coil, or C10 the 100pf capacitor? Or something else?

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

1574. Re: [Alpha87a] 72" Coax Cable?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-18 03:09:25 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1564 Message: 1574

Jim,

The easiest and quickest way to adjust the input SWR is to spread or squeeze the turns of the inductor for the band.

Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 7:36 PM, jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

> Glenn,
>
> I agree that the length of coax theoretically should not change the VSWR
> that the radio sees. That being the case, the VSWR on 10m meters is up
> around 1.7:1 and 1.8:1. Would you suggest trying to adjust either L1,
> which is the 2 turn coil, or C10 the 100pf capacitor? Or something else?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
> _
>

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1575. Re: Reasonable Cost Source for Alpha 87A High Power TX Pin Diode UM4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-18 20:51:39 UTC
From: n612dw@...
Topic: 1572 Message: 1575

Tnx jerry,

just put a pair on order to stuff in the lipstick case next to a pair of finals since i plan on holding onto this sucker for a long time.

-bob, w9zv

1576. Re: Reasonable Cost Source for Alpha 87A High Power TX Pin Diode UM4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-20 17:00:56 UTC
From: pmuscian@...
Topic: 1572 Message: 1576

Thanks for the info, Jerry. I have two pair ordered, as if I will need them, I will NEED them ;-).

73 Paula k9ir

1577. Metal Cover for 87a For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-20 17:48:43 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1577 Message: 1577

I have an extra metal cover/sides for the 87a. New, never used.

Email me if interested: kb0X at arrl dot net

Jim

KB0X

1578. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Reasonable Cost Source for Alpha 87A High Power TX Pin Diode UM4006D

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-10-23 23:17:28 UTC
From: W4QG
Topic: 1572 Message: 1578

Jerry and All,

Put in an order on Friday and already received a couple pairs of them.
Have TWO 87A's that are out of service. One almost certainly TX PINs,
the other as yet TBD,
will likely have some questions for the group.

Excellent tip and I really appreciate it!
73,
Paul W4QG

On 10/18/2014 4:51 PM, n612dw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Tnx jerry,
>
>
> just put a pair on order to stuff in the lipstick case next to a pair
> of finals since i plan on holding onto this sucker for a long time.
>
> -bob, w9zv
>

1579. 110 voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-12-17 20:54:47 UTC
From: jon@...
Topic: 1579 Message: 1579

Anyone know if the 87a will work off 110 (at reduced power?)

1580. Re: [Alpha87a] 110 voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-12-17 21:19:43 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1579 Message: 1580

No. It is wired only for 230.

/Rick N6XI

On 12/17/2014 12:54 PM, jon@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

Anyone know if the 87a will work off 110 (at reduced power?)

1581. Re: [Alpha87a] 110 voltage

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2014-12-18 15:46:54 UTC
From: k6xt@...
Topic: 1579 Message: 1581

Modifying Rick's reply slightly my manual states:

190-250V, 50--60Hz single phase. Pick the transformer tap closest to your line voltage from among three taps nominally 200, 220, 240V.

Which as Rick suggests excludes 110 but it is not 'only 230'.

73 Art

1582. Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 01:49:05 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1582 Message: 1582

Hi,

I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off. The amp was not being used.
When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.
After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.

Anyone experience this phenomenon before?

Jim - KR9U

1583. Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 03:03:16 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1582 Message: 1583

I think I've seen that once or twice, same fix.

/Rick N6XI

On 1/19/2015 5:49 PM, jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

Hi,

I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.

While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off. The amp was not being used.

When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.

After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.

Anyone experience this phenomenon before?

Jim - KR9U

1584. Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 16:09:25 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1582 Message: 1584

Here are a couple of clues:

Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several seconds
before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.

http://asktheham.com/node/56

On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi,
>
> I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
> While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off. The amp was
not being used.
> When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was
blinking.
> After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The
amp then worked again just fine.
>
> Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
>
> Jim - KR9U
>

1585. Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 16:11:41 UTC
From: Lou
Topic: 1582 Message: 1585

On 1/20/2015 8:09 AM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

The amp may require changing the sensor parameters..This is done via
a software program..

Lou
>
>
> Here are a couple of clues:
>
> Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
> than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several
> seconds
> before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.
>
> http://asktheham.com/node/56
>
> On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Hi,
> >
> > I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
> > While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly
> shut off. The amp was not being used.
> > When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16
> code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.
> > After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16
> code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
> >
> > Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
> >
> > Jim - KR9U
> >
>
>

1586. Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 18:38:14 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1582 Message: 1586

Hello Lou,

That is interesting information. It's the first I've heard for a Fault 16.
Where did you find it? Have you got a link to it?

And please do tell us more about exactly which resisters (part numbers) and
values are involved. Or if it's done in software/firmware, please provide full
particulars, so others who may encounter serious Fault 16 events may have a
starting place for diagnosis and mitigation.

Thank you for your contribution to this discussion.

Best regards,
Larry

On Tue, 20 Jan 2015 08:11:41 -0800, "Lou beethoven1@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>On 1/20/2015 8:09 AM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> The amp may require changing the sensor parameters..This is done via
>a software program..
>
>Lou
>>
>>
>> Here are a couple of clues:
>>
>> Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
>> than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several
>> seconds
>> before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.
>>
>> http://asktheham.com/node/56
>>
>> On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]"
>> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>>
>> >Hi,
>> >
>> > I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
>> > While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly
>> shut off. The amp was not being used.
>> > When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16
>> code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.
>> > After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16

>> code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
>> >
>> > Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
>> >
>> > Jim - KR9U
>> >
>>
>>

1587. RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 18:42:44 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1582 Message: 1587

The amp had been sitting idle for well over 5 minutes when it shut off. I'm wondering if this isn't due to connector pins that need to be cleaned.

Jim - KR9U

Here are a couple of clues:

Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several
seconds
before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.

http://asktheham.com/node/56

On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]
<mailto:jbwolf@...%20[Alpha87a]> "
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi,
>
> I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
> While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off.
The amp was not being used.
> When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+
0 0 0 0) was blinking.
> After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code
disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
>
> Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
>
> Jim - KR9U
>

1588. RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 19:36:02 UTC
From: MICHAEL HUGHES
Topic: 1582 Message: 1588

Connector pin needing cleaning makes sense to me.

Mike...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 2015 13:42:44 -0500
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

The amp had been sitting idle for well over 5 minutes when it shut off. I'm wondering if this isn't due to connector pins that need to be cleaned.
Jim – KR9U

Here are a couple of clues:

Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several seconds
before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.

http://asktheham.com/node/56

On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi,
>
> I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
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> When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.
> After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
>
> Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
>
> Jim - KR9U
>

1589. Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 20:48:08 UTC
From: James Heye
Topic: 1582 Message: 1589

I agree .... I clean all contacts I could access including tube sockets with a branded contact cleaner since I was to cheap to buy DeOxit which I had read somewhere is the best cleaner. My problem did not go away after cleaning every contact and plug I could reach. ... Reluctantly I bought DeOxit and tried again. My amp came to life showing no faults after the warm-up period.... Don't know if it was the DeOxit but in the future I will use DeOxit even if it cost 25 bucks a can.

Sent from my iPad
Jim

> On Jan 20, 2015, at 1:36 PM, MICHAEL HUGHES mhughes149@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Connector pin needing cleaning makes sense to me.
>
> Mike...
>
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Date: Tue, 20 Jan 2015 13:42:44 -0500
> Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting
>
>
> The amp had been sitting idle for well over 5 minutes when it shut off. I’m wondering if this isn’t due to connector pins that need to be cleaned.
> Jim – KR9U
> ____________
> Here are a couple of clues:
>
> Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
> than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several seconds
> before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.
>
> http://asktheham.com/node/56
>
> On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Hi,
> >
> > I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
> > While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off. The amp was not being used.
> > When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.

> > After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
> >
> > Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
> >
> > Jim - KR9U
> >
>
>
>

1590. RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-01-20 21:00:59 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1582 Message: 1590

25 bucks!!?? I bought a 5 ounce can yesterday at Radio Shack for $15.00!

However, it did not help with my Fault 20.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

I agree .... I clean all contacts I could access including tube sockets with a branded contact cleaner since I was to cheap to buy DeOxit which I had read somewhere is the best cleaner. My problem did not go away after cleaning every contact and plug I could reach. ... Reluctantly I bought DeOxit and tried again. My amp came to life showing no faults after the warm-up period.... Don't know if it was the DeOxit but in the future I will use DeOxit even if it cost 25 bucks a can.

Sent from my iPad

Jim

On Jan 20, 2015, at 1:36 PM, MICHAEL HUGHES mhughes149@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Connector pin needing cleaning makes sense to me.

Mike...

To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Date: Tue, 20 Jan 2015 13:42:44 -0500
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Fail while in operate mode but not transmitting

The amp had been sitting idle for well over 5 minutes when it shut off. I'm wondering if this isn't due to connector pins that need to be cleaned.
Jim – KR9U

Here are a couple of clues:

Fault 16 Soft Plate current greater than 1.35 amp for more
than 4 seconds continuous. Note: The IP button LED flashes for several seconds
before a fault 16 IP trip occurs.

http://asktheham.com/node/56

On 19 Jan 2015 17:49:05 -0800, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] <mailto:jbwolf@...%20[Alpha87a]> " <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi,
>
> I've had this happen twice now in the last few months.
> While the amplifier was sitting in operational mode, it suddenly shut off. The amp was not being used.
> When I turned it back on, the fault like was lit and the fault 16 code (+ 0 0 0 0) was blinking.
> After the warm-up period, the fault light went out and the fault 16 code disappeared. The amp then worked again just fine.
>
> Anyone experience this phenomenon before?
>
> Jim - KR9U
>

1591. Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 11:22:01 UTC
From: Charles Wilmott
Topic: 1591 Message: 1591

Hi all,
I am new to the group so please go easy on me ;-)

Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software (87A) from on a CD please? I am a new owner to the 87A and although I have the 2 Floppy Discs which I assume are quite old, for some reason my PC won't read them. It could also be incompatibility with Windows 8 I guess.

Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.

Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

--
Kindest regards, Charles

MØOXO QSL Manager Service <http://www.m0oxo.com/qsl-manager.html>

Charles Wilmott (MØOXO <http://www.qrz.com/lookup/m0oxo>)
60 Church Hill,
Royston, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire, S71 4NG
England, United Kingdom

Tel +44 7900 500775
SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1592. Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 13:43:44 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1591 Message: 1592

I believe you can download the software from RFCONCEPTS.

Larry, KN8N

On Monday, February 23, 2015 6:22 AM, "Charles Wilmott charles.wilmott@m0oxo.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Hi all,
I am new to the group so please go easy on me ;-)

Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software (87A) from on a CD please? I am a new owner to the 87A and although I have the 2 Floppy Discs which I assume are quite old, for some reason my PC won't read them. It could also be incompatibility with Windows 8 I guess.

Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.

Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

--

Kindest regards, Charles

MØOXO QSL Manager Service

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60 Church Hill,
Royston, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire, S71 4NG
England, United Kingdom

Tel +44 7900 500775
SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1593. Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 14:33:08 UTC
From: Charles Wilmott
Topic: 1591 Message: 1593

Thanks Larry, I didn't find it when I browsed but I'll take another look.

Thank you,

73 de Charles

On Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 1:43 PM, Larry Boekeloo lboekeloo@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I believe you can download the software from RFCONCEPTS.
>
> Larry, KN8N
>
>
> On Monday, February 23, 2015 6:22 AM, "Charles Wilmott
> charles.wilmott@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> Hi all,
> I am new to the group so please go easy on me ;-)
>
> Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software (87A) from on
> a CD please? I am a new owner to the 87A and although I have the 2 Floppy
> Discs which I assume are quite old, for some reason my PC won't read them.
> It could also be incompatibility with Windows 8 I guess.
>
> Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.
>
> Thank you,
>
>
> Charles M0OXO
>
> --
> Kindest regards, Charles
>
> MØOXO QSL Manager Service <http://www.m0oxo.com/qsl-manager.html>
>
> Charles Wilmott (MØOXO <http://www.qrz.com/lookup/m0oxo>)
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>
>
>

--
Kindest regards, Charles

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1594. Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software - alpharemote.zip

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 14:50:21 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1591 Message: 1594
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

On Mon, 23 Feb 2015 11:22:01 +0000, "Charles Wilmott charles.wilmott@m0oxo.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software

Hello Charles,

I've attached a copy of AlphaRemote for you. If it's not already, it should probably be uploaded to the Files section of this Yahoo Group.

Have fun.

Best regards,
Larry

1897:
Radio has no future.
--Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society

Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1595. Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software - alpharemote.zip [1 Attachment]

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 14:52:16 UTC
From: Charles Wilmott
Topic: 1591 Message: 1595

Fabulous Larry, thanks a lot!

73 de Charles

On Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 2:50 PM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> [Attachment(s) <#14bb6eb0e77ddab8_TopText> from Larry Dighera included
> below]
>
> On Mon, 23 Feb 2015 11:22:01 +0000, "Charles Wilmott
> charles.wilmott@...
> [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software
>
> Hello Charles,
>
> I've attached a copy of AlphaRemote for you. If it's not already, it should
> probably be uploaded to the Files section of this Yahoo Group.
>
> Have fun.
>
> Best regards,
> Larry
>
> 1897:
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--
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SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1596. RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 15:16:18 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1591 Message: 1596
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I really like the 87A program by HB9ZS. It works with other programs, including N1MM and DXLab's Commander, to read the transceiver's frequency and send it to the 87A so the 87A can pre-tune without requiring any RF from the radio. It also offers a meter panel, fault recording, and a terminal program capability to communicate with the 87A. It also controls the power on/off, standby/operate, and Alpha Max.

I used to have a 9500 and like HB9ZS' program for the 87A better than RF Concepts' 9500 program at the time.

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

Here are some screen shots:

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: February 23, 2015 08:33
To: Alpha 87A Group
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Thanks Larry, I didn't find it when I browsed but I'll take another look.

Thank you,

73 de Charles

On Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 1:43 PM, Larry Boekeloo lboekeloo@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

I believe you can download the software from RFCONCEPTS.

Larry, KN8N

On Monday, February 23, 2015 6:22 AM, "Charles Wilmott charles.wilmott@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Hi all,

I am new to the group so please go easy on me ;-)

Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software (87A) from on a CD please? I am a new owner to the 87A and although I have the 2 Floppy Discs which I assume are quite old, for some reason my PC won't read them. It could also be incompatibility with Windows 8 I guess.

Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.

Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

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Kindest regards, Charles
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SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1597. RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 15:51:59 UTC
From: Charles
Topic: 1591 Message: 1597

Thanks Jim,
I have been trying today but just can't get the connection to work. I am not sure whether the cable is at fault or driver error but struggling today. Looks like another bash at it tomorrow.

Cheers, Charles

-----Original Message-----
From: "'Jim N7US' jim@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: □23/□02/□2015 15:16
To: "Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

I really like the 87A program by HB9ZS. It works with other programs, including N1MM and DXLab’s Commander, to read the transceiver’s frequency and send it to the 87A so the 87A can pre-tune without requiring any RF from the radio. It also offers a meter panel, fault recording, and a terminal program capability to communicate with the 87A. It also controls the power on/off, standby/operate, and Alpha Max.

I used to have a 9500 and like HB9ZS’ program for the 87A better than RF Concepts’ 9500 program at the time.

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

Here are some screen shots:

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: February 23, 2015 08:33
To: Alpha 87A Group
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Thanks Larry, I didn't find it when I browsed but I'll take another look.
Thank you,
73 de Charles

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Larry, KN8N

On Monday, February 23, 2015 6:22 AM, "Charles Wilmott charles.wilmott@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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Can anyone tell me where I can get the Alpha Remote Software (87A) from on a CD please? I am a new owner to the 87A and although I have the 2 Floppy Discs which I assume are quite old, for some reason my PC won't read them. It could also be incompatibility with Windows 8 I guess.
Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.
Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

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Kindest regards, Charles

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Kindest regards, Charles

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England, United Kingdom

Tel +44 7900 500775
SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1598. RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 17:46:34 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1591 Message: 1598

Charles,

I’m currently using an Edgeport/4 USB-to-serial box to connect my 87A, and I’ve previously used real serial ports and even a Prolific serial-to-USB adaptor.

I couldn’t remember for sure if I’ve used the program with N1MM+, so I just tried it. I found a problem, in that HB9ZS’s program alternates between the frequencies in my K3’s two VFOs. I think the relevant section of my N1MM Logger.ini file is the same as I used previously with N1MM Classic. I emailed HB9ZS to see if he has any suggestions.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: February 23, 2015 09:52
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Thanks Jim,
I have been trying today but just can't get the connection to work. I am not sure whether the cable is at fault or driver error but struggling today. Looks like another bash at it tomorrow.

Cheers, Charles

From: 'Jim N7US' jim@... [Alpha87a] <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: □23/□02/□2015 15:16
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

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I used to have a 9500 and like HB9ZS’ program for the 87A better than RF Concepts’ 9500 program at the time.

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

Here are some screen shots:

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: February 23, 2015 08:33

To: Alpha 87A Group
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Thanks Larry, I didn't find it when I browsed but I'll take another look.

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Larry, KN8N

On Monday, February 23, 2015 6:22 AM, "Charles Wilmott charles.wilmott@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received.

Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

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Kindest regards, Charles
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Tel +44 7900 500775 <tel:%2B44%207900%20500775>
SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

--

Kindest regards, Charles
<http://www.m0oxo.com/qsl-manager.html>
MØOXO QSL Manager Service

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Royston, Barnsley,
South Yorkshire, S71 4NG
England, United Kingdom

Tel +44 7900 500775
SKYPE charleszyz (Please send your Callsign and request contact)

1599. RE: [Alpha87a] Remote Software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-02-23 19:14:29 UTC
From: LY2BAW
Topic: 1591 Message: 1599

Hi Charles,

I tested almost all softs for Remote Control for Alpha87A Power Amplifier.

Best one for me (with my Windows XP PRO) is:

http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/

Good luck.

73! Tadas LY2BAW

==========

“...Any suggestions or advice would be gratefully received....”

Thank you,

Charles M0OXO

<http://y.analytics.yahoo.com/fpc.pl?ywarid=515FB27823A7407E&a=10001310322279&js=no&resp=img>

1600. Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-03 06:38:51 UTC
From: sixeye666@...
Topic: 1600 Message: 1600

Does anyone know of a good source for the 3CX800A7? In particular, the Eimacs, but I welcome any information.

Is the 3CX800A7LG advertised in QST by RF Concepts compatible with the 87A? I presume it is and have an email in to them about it. Oddly, this tube is not listed on their web site but was prominent in the ad.

My tubes are in good working condition but I like to have spares on the shelf.

1601. Re: Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-03 15:23:38 UTC
From: Bill Axelrod
Topic: 1600 Message: 1601

I could not find Eimacs. I just re-tubed my Alpha with the ones that RF Concepts sells. They take a little more drive on the higher bands but work just fine. And the price is right.

73... BillK3WA

1602. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-03 15:40:30 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1600 Message: 1602

Don't we wish the 87A used 4CX800's instead of the 3CX800's? Much cheaper and more available.
I have a set of used spares just in case as well.
But the amp? Top performer.
I can't believe this amp was designed in the early 1990's and rivals the fancy amps of today.
George W2YJ

On 3/3/2015 10:23 AM, Bill Axelrod bill@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
> I could not find Eimacs. I just re-tubed my Alpha with the ones that
> RF Concepts sells. They take a little more drive on the higher bands
> but work just fine. And the price is right.
>
> 73... BillK3WA
>

1603. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-03 20:28:33 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1600 Message: 1603

I bought a 9500 and sold it and instead bought a second 87A. Better to invest the extra cash in some spare parts like the TX pin diodes and spare tubes and keep two winners.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:41 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Tubes

Don't we wish the 87A used 4CX800's instead of the 3CX800's? Much cheaper and more available.
I have a set of used spares just in case as well.
But the amp? Top performer.
I can't believe this amp was designed in the early 1990's and rivals the fancy amps of today.
George W2YJ

On 3/3/2015 10:23 AM, Bill Axelrod bill@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

I could not find Eimacs. I just re-tubed my Alpha with the ones that RF Concepts sells. They take a little more drive on the higher bands but work just fine. And the price is right.

73... BillK3WA

1604. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Tubes

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-03 22:05:38 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1600 Message: 1604

Jerry;
As I said, a great amp. I use mine remotely. Yep, I control it from 1200 miles away.
You can't beat this amp for the price.
I will say my ham friend has had trouble with his blowing RF bias pin diodes 3 times now.
The original pin diodes are no longer available from RF Concepts but they say that a common 1N4007 will act the same.
George W2YJ

On 3/3/2015 3:28 PM, 'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a] wrote:4007
>
> I bought a 9500 and sold it and instead bought a second 87A. Better
> to invest the extra cash in some spare parts like the TX pin diodes
> and spare tubes and keep two winners.
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> K1JOS
>
> *From:*Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> *Sent:* Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:41 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Tubes
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> Don't we wish the 87A used 4CX800's instead of the 3CX800's? Much
> cheaper and more available.
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> the fancy amps of today.
> George W2YJ
>
> On 3/3/2015 10:23 AM, Bill Axelrod bill@...
> <mailto:bill@...> [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> I could not find Eimacs. I just re-tubed my Alpha with the ones
> that RF Concepts sells. They take a little more drive on the
> higher bands but work just fine. And the price is right.
>
> 73... BillK3WA
>
>

1605. ALPHA 87A shutting down started as Fault 1 but now more

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-06 13:40:38 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1605 Message: 1605

Good morning guys and hope someone can help me out with contest starting tonight my Alpha is down.

Started with a Fault 1 pointing to the RX pin diodes.
Replaced all 3 of them with IN4007 and the amp worked for an hour or 2 made many contacts.
After about 2 hours more faults see below:

High guys

Contest starts tonight and still have Alpha 87A problems

Changed all the RX Pin Diodes with the IN4007. Amp appeared to work made contacts for an hour or 2 then failed again and now the errors are more than a #1 Fault see below.

Amp starts up, I clear the faults but when I go to transmit the AMP SHUTS OFF?

Any words of wisdom ???

I will put this on Alpha reflector too.

Barry

N2bj@comcast.net mailto:N2bj@comcast.net

815-485-6978

Thanks

Barry

I changed the 3rd Pin Diode this morning on the bottom but still getting HV errors??

www.n2bj.com

1606. ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-07 13:45:39 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1606 Message: 1606

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M

Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1607. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-07 17:41:39 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1606 Message: 1607
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Congrats on that, Barry. I'm happy for you.

Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

Guess I have to wait until Monday to call Glenn for help and meanwhile get by on 100w for the contest.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M

Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1608. Re: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-07 18:16:54 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1606 Message: 1608

How did you fix the Alpha 87A? Did I miss a EMAIL with how you fixed it?
Thanks.
George W2YJ

On 3/7/2015 8:45 AM, n2bj@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.
>
>
> Write this one down
>
>
> Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still
> faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M
>
>
> Problem was:
>
>
> Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board
>
>
>
>
>
> Right that one down in the notes
>
>
>
>
>
> By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?
>

>
> Thanks again to all.
>
>
> Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.
>
>
> Thanks again to all!
>
>
> N2BJ
>
>
> 73
>
>
> Barry
>
>
>
>
>

1609. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-07 18:33:39 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1606 Message: 1609
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Barry,

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:

http://asktheham.com/node/56

https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Congrats on that, Barry. I’m happy for you.

Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

Guess I have to wait until Monday to call Glenn for help and meanwhile get by on 100w for the contest.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

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Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1610. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-07 18:42:48 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1606 Message: 1610
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Thank you, Dennis.

Number 1 did not fix it.

As for number 2, I will have to find my serial cable and also my cord for the old laptop that Alpha Remote is loaded into.

Will report back on how it goes, but no telling when I will be able to locate those items, hi.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Barry,

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:

http://asktheham.com/node/56

https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Congrats on that, Barry. I’m happy for you.

Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

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73,

John

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From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1611. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-08 03:12:59 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1606 Message: 1611

John,

Are you sure the amp has a fault 99? Unless you turned it on six times into a hard fault without a valid transmission, it likely isn't fault 99 – yet!

There are other things that can cause the symptoms you describe.

Make sure to unplug the amp for over 2 minutes before doing anything else. This resets the processor. (kind of like a windows reboot). I had likely the exact same symptoms as you describe. The 2 minute uP reset cured the problem and it has not shown up again.

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thank you, Dennis.

Number 1 did not fix it.

As for number 2, I will have to find my serial cable and also my cord for the old laptop that Alpha Remote is loaded into.

Will report back on how it goes, but no telling when I will be able to locate those items, hi.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Barry,

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:

http://asktheham.com/node/56

https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.

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Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Guess I have to wait until Monday to call Glenn for help and meanwhile get by on 100w for the contest.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M

Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1612. RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-08 14:15:29 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1606 Message: 1612
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Thanks for the input, Jim.

For sure I have not turned the amp on into a hard fault 6 times. So far as I know, I have never had a hard fault. I did once have soft fault 30, but fixed that by reseating 10 plugs as recommended by Alpha.

But, the 2 fuses on the back of the 87a check out ok and the fuse visible through the top of the 87a is ok and the voltage coming from the receptacle is ok. Please advise of any other things you can think of that might cause this problem. As mentioned before, the amp was working just fine as of the time I turned it off Friday night. On Saturday morning it simply would not turn on.

Thanks/73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 10:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

John,

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There are other things that can cause the symptoms you describe.

Make sure to unplug the amp for over 2 minutes before doing anything else. This resets the processor. (kind of like a windows reboot). I had likely the exact same symptoms as you describe. The 2 minute uP reset cured the problem and it has not shown up again.

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Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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As for number 2, I will have to find my serial cable and also my cord for the old laptop that Alpha Remote is loaded into.

Will report back on how it goes, but no telling when I will be able to locate those items, hi.

73,

John

W4GD

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Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:34 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Barry,

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:

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https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

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From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

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John

W4GD

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Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

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Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1613. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-08 21:20:03 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1613 Message: 1613

John,

Follow the instructions on this page, http://asktheham.com/node/56 Make note that after you turn it on you must leave it on for 30 seconds to clear or it will report another hard fault.

Assuming you don't have many (5 or less hard) faults, turn it on and before the 30 seconds have passes record the fault code using the lights on the front panel and see what the fault is. Leave the amp on more than 30 seconds to clear – assuming it does.

Use the manual to determine the fault code.

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks for the input, Jim.

For sure I have not turned the amp on into a hard fault 6 times. So far as I know, I have never had a hard fault. I did once have soft fault 30, but fixed that by reseating 10 plugs as recommended by Alpha.

But, the 2 fuses on the back of the 87a check out ok and the fuse visible through the top of the 87a is ok and the voltage coming from the receptacle is ok. Please advise of any other things you can think of that might cause this problem. As mentioned before, the amp was working just fine as of the time I turned it off Friday night. On Saturday morning it simply would not turn on.

Thanks/73,

John

W4GD

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Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 10:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Will report back on how it goes, but no telling when I will be able to locate those items, hi.

73,

John

W4GD

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Barry,

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http://asktheham.com/node/56

https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned

it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

Guess I have to wait until Monday to call Glenn for help and meanwhile get by on 100w for the contest.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M

Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1614. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-09 02:27:07 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1613 Message: 1614
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Jim, KR9U and Dennis, NE6I, thanks for the input re my 87a problem.

Computers are not my forte, but I have just found an old laptop in the closet that has Win95 which I believe has the necessary terminal program. And, to my surprise, I found Alpha Remote on it. Now all I have to do is to find my cable to hook the computer up to the 87a.

Will try to get the computer and the 87a communicating tomorrow. Thanks for your help and I will send a progress report as soon as available.

Meanwhile I roughed it through the contest barefoot. A humbling experience in the pileups, hi.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 5:20 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

John,

Follow the instructions on this page, http://asktheham.com/node/56 Make note that after you turn it on you must leave it on for 30 seconds to clear or it will report another hard fault.

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Use the manual to determine the fault code.

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Thanks/73,

John

W4GD

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Make sure to unplug the amp for over 2 minutes before doing anything else. This resets the processor. (kind of like a windows reboot). I had likely the exact same symptoms as you describe. The 2 minute uP reset cured the problem and it has not shown up again.

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

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Write this one down

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Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1615. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-11 20:49:22 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1613 Message: 1615
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Jim/KR9U and Dennis/NE6I I wanted to let you both know that my 87A has returned to life! Turns out that Glenn/AE0Q from RF Concepts was monitoring the mail over the weekend and reached out to me as did you two.

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1616. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-11 21:26:08 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1613 Message: 1616

John,

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From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

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Barry

1617. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-12 01:49:59 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1613 Message: 1617

Glad that you got it working again, John. Before entering the “26 lines of code”, did you type in HF and also SF to see if the amp reported any faults? In my case, the HF command reported six consecutive hard faults of the same type and I knew then what had happened. I then typed in the “26 lines of code” to clear them.

--Dennis NE6I

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Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 2:26 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

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1618. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-12 02:22:43 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1613 Message: 1618
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Yes, Dennis, I did.

In my case I got:

SF 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20

HF 22 22 22 22 24 0 0 0

So, I did not have 6 consecutive hard faults of the same type in a row.

It appears that I did have 6 consecutive soft faults, but I know that when I turned the amp off, it had been working and had not shut down on its own and I did not see any fault lines on.

I will give it a workout over the weekend to be sure it is working ok …… thanks for your help …….73, John, W4GD

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

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1619. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-12 02:34:59 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1613 Message: 1619
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Interesting. I wonder if Fault 22 had occurred six times in a row prior to the Fault 24. However, as I understand it, it should then have gone to a Fault 99.

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1620. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-12 02:50:12 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1613 Message: 1620
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I would think so, Dennis, but not sure. I got rid of the fault 20's by cleaning and reseating 10 recommended plugs. At one point I even mailed my finals to Alpha for testing. They checked ok. I had reseated the plugs prior to doing that, but to no avail. However, I had not cleaned the plugs. So, I then cleaned them with Caig's De-Oxit and reseated them and all was well.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 10:35 PM
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1621. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A hard fault

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-12 03:03:18 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1613 Message: 1621

I have been told; it takes 10 soft faults without a valid transmission to end up with a fault 99. Can someone confirm?

Jim – KR9U

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https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330 <https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf>
&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Congrats on that, Barry. I’m happy for you.

Meanwhile, I went into my radio room this morning looking forward to having fun in the ARRL SSB DX contest and my 87A would not turn on!! It was working fine last night when I turned it off. I believe this means that I have fault 99. Fuses in the 87A check out ok. The power line is ok.

Guess I have to wait until Monday to call Glenn for help and meanwhile get by on 100w for the contest.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A FIXED

Thanks to Glenn and all who responded.

N2BJ Alpha 87A back on air.

Write this one down

Even though the RX pin Diodes were bad replaced with IN4007 amp still faulted with different faults and only on bands above 40M

Problem was:

Under L1 (150 mh) carbon arc on board

Right that one down in the notes

By the way my HV only reads 2635V, is that right?

Thanks again to all.

Too bad Conditions STINK in BLACK hole this morning.

Thanks again to all!

N2BJ

73

Barry

1622. 87A powers off

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-13 02:34:11 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1622 Message: 1622

All of a sudden my 87A has started to power off by itself. The other day it did it after I made a contact, and today it turned off before it got through the 3-minute warm-up.

I can't connect to the serial port now either. I don't know if that's due to a computer problem or an 87A problem. I've tried other serial ports but no luck so far, which means I haven't been able to monitor the amplifier using the serial port. That's a new problem, so maybe it's related to the auto power-off.

Any thoughts would be appreciated.

73, Jim N7US

1623. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A powers off

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-13 03:22:17 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1622 Message: 1623

Jim,

When you turn the amp back on, the segment LEDs should blink for 10 seconds or so indicating the last fault.

Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Mar 12, 2015 at 8:34 PM, 'Jim N7US' jim@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> All of a sudden my 87A has started to power off by itself. The other day
> it did it after I made a contact, and today it turned off before it got
> through the 3-minute warm-up.
>
>
>
> I can’t connect to the serial port now either. I don’t know if that’s due
> to a computer problem or an 87A problem. I’ve tried other serial ports but
> no luck so far, which means I haven’t been able to monitor the amplifier
> using the serial port. That’s a new problem, so maybe it’s related to the
> auto power-off.
>
>
>
> Any thoughts would be appreciated.
>
>
>
> *73, Jim N7US*
>
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>
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>

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Glenn, Merri, Hildie and Katie
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-EAC, O-TG-E, HP-N,
AX, AXJ, NF,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ

S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1624. Attenuation on RX in operate mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-23 09:39:59 UTC
From: Bostjan Voncina - S55O
Topic: 1624 Message: 1624

Hello!

I'm experiencing a weird problem.

When i turn the alpha 87a to operate, the signals get's reduced from 59+40 to 57 (on 7 Mhz, tested yesterday). So something is happening in the RX path of the alpha.

The TX part is ok and it get's 1,5kW easily out, so i think it's not the same problem as posted here:

http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=99349.5;wap2

with faulty pin diodes...or am i wrong ?

there is no fault with operating and it works normaly, just the signals on RX are greatly attenuated.

Thank you for any idea

Bostjan S55O

1625. RE: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-23 11:34:24 UTC
From: John C Elsik
Topic: 1624 Message: 1625

I had this happen. Check 1/4A Micro fuse F2. If that is good, then do the pin diode check procedure.

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 3:40 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode

Hello!

I'm experiencing a weird problem.

When i turn the alpha 87a to operate, the signals get's reduced from 59+40 to 57 (on 7 Mhz, tested yesterday). So something is happening in the RX path of the alpha.

The TX part is ok and it get's 1,5kW easily out, so i think it's not the same problem as posted here:

http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=99349.5;wap2

with faulty pin diodes...or am i wrong ?

there is no fault with operating and it works normaly, just the signals on RX are greatly attenuated.

Thank you for any idea

Bostjan S55O

1626. Re: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-23 11:35:28 UTC
From: Bostjan Voncina - S55O
Topic: 1624 Message: 1626

Thank you John, searching all over internet i got to the same solution.
Let's hope it's the 0,5€ fuse :)

2015-03-23 12:34 GMT+01:00 John C Elsik wa5zup@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>:

>
>
> I had this happen. Check 1/4A Micro fuse F2. If that is good, then do
> the pin diode check procedure.
>
>
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> *Sent:* Monday, March 23, 2015 3:40 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode
>
>
>
>
>
> Hello!
>
> I'm experiencing a weird problem.
>
> When i turn the alpha 87a to operate, the signals get's reduced from 59+40
> to 57 (on 7 Mhz, tested yesterday). So something is happening in the RX
> path of the alpha.
>
> The TX part is ok and it get's 1,5kW easily out, so i think it's not the
> same problem as posted here:
>
> http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=99349.5;wap2
>
> with faulty pin diodes...or am i wrong ?
>
> there is no fault with operating and it works normaly, just the signals on
> RX are greatly attenuated.
>
> Thank you for any idea
>
> Bostjan S55O
>
>

>

1627. Re: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-23 13:22:51 UTC
From: LY2BAW
Topic: 1624 Message: 1627

Hi,

1/4 Amp burned fuse - is only visible result of partly burned one of two TX PIN diods.

I had same problem in my PA, 1/4 Amp fuse also was burned.
No any faul, PA was working perfect.
Only RX level on S-meter was about 20-30dB down.

In my case one of two TX PIN diods was partly burned by static.
Voltage was measured about -82 V instead of -109V - see PIN diods checking procedure by voltage measuring.

Solution - both power PIN diods and one low voltage capacitor in same -109V voltage supplying chaine was changed because was parly burned after "very soft" static rain hit.
All problems with RX level gone one year ago.

So, my proposal - look for new high power PIN diod (TX side one)or both PIN diods.
And also for same type of 1/4 Amp fuse - its sensitive.

Good luck.

73! Tadas LY2BAW

-----Laiško originalas-----
Nuo ko: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Siųstas: 2015-03-23 13:35:28
Kam: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Laiško pavadinimas: Re: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode

> Thank you John, searching all over internet i got to the same solution. Let's hope it's the 0,5€ fuse :)
>
>
> 2015-03-23 12:34 GMT+01:00 John C Elsik wa5zup@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>:
>
>
> I had this happen. Check 1/4A Micro fuse F2. If that is good, then do the pin diode check procedure.
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 3:40 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Attenuation on RX in operate mode
>

>
>
>
>
> Hello!
>
> I'm experiencing a weird problem.
>
> When i turn the alpha 87a to operate, the signals get's reduced from 59+40 to 57 (on 7 Mhz, tested yesterday). So something is happening in the RX path of the alpha.
>
> The TX part is ok and it get's 1,5kW easily out, so i think it's not the same problem as posted here:
>
> http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=99349.5;wap2
>
> with faulty pin diodes...or am i wrong ?
>
> there is no fault with operating and it works normaly, just the signals on RX are greatly attenuated.
>
> Thank you for any idea
>
> Bostjan S55O
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1628. Anyone have a New 87A Front Panel??`

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-31 02:51:42 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1628 Message: 1628

I scratched up the front of one of my 87A pretty badly. (Please don't ask how - dumb dumb). RF Concepts is out of them and wont be making any more. Does anyone have a spare they purchased and can part with?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1629. RE: [Alpha87a] Anyone have a New 87A Front Panel??`

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-03-31 04:35:56 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1628 Message: 1629

Jerry,

If you need the top/sides for the 87A, I have one still brand new in the box.

Let me know off the group at kb0x at arrl dot net.

Jim

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 9:52 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Anyone have a New 87A Front Panel??`

I scratched up the front of one of my 87A pretty badly. (Please don't ask how - dumb dumb). RF Concepts is out of them and wont be making any more. Does anyone have a spare they purchased and can part with?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1630. 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-17 05:08:05 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1630 Message: 1630

One of my 87As faulted to hard fault 37 as it was just in the on position with no RF applied. When I try and turn it on the blower and fan come on for ~5 seconds then the unit shuts off. No LEDs come on. I have corresponded with Glenn and I have moved the bandswitch and tried adjusting the bracket with no luck. I have also reseated all the connectors on the board on the left hand side behind the front panel (assuming this is the step motor driver board). Has anyone else experienced this and have any idea? I do have a 2nd working 87A but am reluctant to swap boards and end up with 2 dead amps. I have considered opening up the good amp and comparing resistance readings but without the full schematics I am not sure about this.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1631. Re: 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-17 19:06:34 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1630 Message: 1631

Mike,

While I don't have any insight to your specific problem, there is a full schematic in the files section of this group.

When you find the problem, can you post it here? We can add that to the available information.

Thanks,

Jim - KR9U

1632. Re: 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-26 04:16:13 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1630 Message: 1632

With Glenn and Brads help I was able to get the amp going. It turned out to be cold solder joints either on the 2 bridge rectifiers on the LVPS or the larger transistors on that board. Bridges tested good but board connections did not look the best.

It is nice to have Alpha's timely help to resolve problems like this-I'll give them kudos for it.

Mike W9RE

1633. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-26 13:01:43 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1630 Message: 1633

Congratulations Mike, glad you solved the problem and added to our knowledgebase. Could you share some of the diagnostics that Glenn and Brad had you go through to. The only prior info we have seen printed up anywhere about Fault 37 was the possibility of a stuck bandswitch. If you could summarize some of the things you worked through to find the cold solder joints that would be helpful to the Alpha 87a community.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 12:16 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 37

With Glenn and Brads help I was able to get the amp going. It turned out to be cold solder joints either on the 2 bridge rectifiers on the LVPS or the larger transistors on that board. Bridges tested good but board connections did not look the best.

It is nice to have Alpha's timely help to resolve problems like this-I'll give them kudos for it.

Mike W9RE

1634. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-26 13:24:08 UTC
From: James Heye
Topic: 1630 Message: 1634

I agree, it would be terrific if you will summarize the steps you took to clear Fault code 37 from your Alpha 87a.
Thanks,

Jim, K5WLQ

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 26, 2015, at 8:01 AM, 'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Congratulations Mike, glad you solved the problem and added to our knowledgebase. Could you share some of the diagnostics that Glenn and Brad had you go through to. The only prior info we have seen printed up anywhere about Fault 37 was the possibility of a stuck bandswitch. If you could summarize some of the things you worked through to find the cold solder joints that would be helpful to the Alpha 87a community.
>
>
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> K1JOS
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 12:16 AM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 37
>
>
>
>
>
> With Glenn and Brads help I was able to get the amp going. It turned out to be cold solder joints either on the 2 bridge rectifiers on the LVPS or the larger transistors on that board. Bridges tested good but board connections did not look the best.
>
> It is nice to have Alpha's timely help to resolve problems like this-I'll give them kudos for it.
>
> Mike W9RE
>
>
>

1635. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A Fault 37

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-04-28 03:33:18 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1630 Message: 1635

Fault 37-tips

Pretty simple and straightforward.

1. Manually move the bandswitch wafer to be sure geared pot is not in a dead spot.
2. Loosen gear mounting bracket to make sure there is no binding on the bandswitch wafer moving.
3. Check 2A fuse on LVPS board.
4. Remove LVPS board and reflow solder connections to the 2 bridge rectifiers and nearby tab transistors.

Removing LVPS board takes about .5 hour as you have to remove the HVPS first. I did not remove the transformer. To check the fuse you do not need to remove anything other then the cover.

Above per Glenn and Brad @Alpha.

Mike W9RE

1636. Peeling Bleeder Resistors HV Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-05-07 17:02:50 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1636 Message: 1636

I removed the top cover of my 87A for my annual Spring dust off and I noticed several small flecks of hard brown enamel flying around, On inspection this came from the R29 and R34 10 ohm / 25 W wirewound HV board resistors visible right on top of board. No heat marks on resistors seen and no heat marks on the board but now I can see the underlying wirewound markings on the resistor bodies. These are Clarostat brand and original. Amp seems to be working otherwise OK. Is the peeling enamel a heat stress sign of something else going on or just normal aging?:

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1637. RE: [Alpha87a] Peeling Bleeder Resistors HV Board

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-05-07 18:46:57 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1636 Message: 1637

Second issue noted. On further inspection I found that one of the two parallel blocking/coupling caps (.002 uF at 6KV) between the Plate choke and the variable Tuning capacitor was broken off. Maybe it was under mechanical tension as it broke off just at the body of the cap. I read on the RF Concepts webpage for this part that they now recommend to put 3 in parallel “for reliability” and here I am operating with only 1 blocking cap !! I don’t think this is related to the peeling 25 W resistors on the HV board but it points out that these amps should be inspected periodically even when working fine.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 1:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Peeling Bleeder Resistors HV Board

I removed the top cover of my 87A for my annual Spring dust off and I noticed several small flecks of hard brown enamel flying around, On inspection this came from the R29 and R34 10 ohm / 25 W wirewound HV board resistors visible right on top of board. No heat marks on resistors seen and no heat marks on the board but now I can see the underlying wirewound markings on the resistor bodies. These are Clarostat brand and original. Amp seems to be working otherwise OK. Is the peeling enamel a heat stress sign of something else going on or just normal aging?:

73 Jerry

K1JOS

1638. Dayton Antenna Forum

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-05-08 17:24:01 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1638 Message: 1638

2015 ANTENNA FORUM - live stream thanks to Icom America

. "A behind the Scenes Tour - The World's Largest Antenna at Arecibo", Angel

Vazquez, WP3R

. "A Look at Antenna Analyzers", Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR

. "The Science of Predicting Space Weather and How it Affects Propagation",

Dr. Tamitha Skov

. "Quadcopter Drone Assisted Real World Antenna Pattern Measurements", Greg

Ordy, W8WWV.

For more information see the FWDXA website under Current Events.

1639. Re: [Alpha87a] Dayton Antenna Forum

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-05-08 19:09:18 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1638 Message: 1639

Sorry about being off-topic for this group, but I thought a link might be useful.

Here's the link to the live stream: <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/dayton2015/>. Hosted by Icom America apparently on Ustream: <http://www.ustream.tv/>.

May 15, 2015 2:30PM-5:30PM

I wasn't able to find anything associated with YouTube on the FWDXA web site: <http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/>.

On 08 May 2015 10:24:01 -0700, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> 2015 ANTENNA FORUM - live stream thanks to Icom America
>
> . "A behind the Scenes Tour - The World's Largest Antenna at Arecibo", Angel
> Vazquez, WP3R
>
> . "A Look at Antenna Analyzers", Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR
>
> . "The Science of Predicting Space Weather and How it Affects Propagation",
> Dr. Tamitha Skov
>
> . "Quadcopter Drone Assisted Real World Antenna Pattern Measurements", Greg
> Ordy, W8WWV.
>
> For more information see the FWDXA website under Current Events.
>

1640. RE: [Alpha87a] Dayton Antenna Forum

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-05-09 01:16:11 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1638 Message: 1640

My mistake,

I was in a hurry and posted this to the wrong group.

I thought the streaming information of the forums was of interest.

Thanks for posting the links.

Jim - KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Dayton Antenna Forum

Sorry about being off-topic for this group, but I thought a link might be
useful.

Here's the link to the live stream:
<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/dayton2015/>. Hosted by Icom America
apparently on Ustream: <http://www.ustream.tv/>.

May 15, 2015 2:30PM-5:30PM

I wasn't able to find anything associated with YouTube on the FWDXA web
site:
<http://www.qsl.net/fwdxa/>.

On 08 May 2015 10:24:01 -0700, "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]
<mailto:jbwolf@...%20[Alpha87a]> "
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> 2015 ANTENNA FORUM - live stream thanks to Icom America
>
> . "A behind the Scenes Tour - The World's Largest Antenna at Arecibo",
Angel
> Vazquez, WP3R
>
> . "A Look at Antenna Analyzers", Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR
>
> . "The Science of Predicting Space Weather and How it Affects
Propagation",
> Dr. Tamitha Skov
>
> . "Quadcopter Drone Assisted Real World Antenna Pattern Measurements",
Greg
> Ordy, W8WWV.

>
> For more information see the FWDXA website under Current Events.
>

1641. New 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-04 09:08:48 UTC
From: mike.k4ld@...
Topic: 1641 Message: 1641

Hello Everyone, I just purchased an 87A with AlphaMax and have a couple of questions I'd like to ask before powering the amplifier up and working DX.

1. I'm not a person who normally uses legal limit everyday - I like to run about a 600 watts to a KW and if I need the extra power, I'll kick it in. Is this going to be a problem? The documentation on this seems to be unclear (to me) in the manual. "The AlphaMax firmware upgrade enables the Alpha 87A to automatically optimize itself for changes in drive level, or antenna impedance". Should I be fine just adjusting the drive values on my radio when I want to use the extra power?

2. Antenna Tuning... I'm on all wires around here and normally tune the antennas just to be safe. Is the best way to do this just by putting the amplifier in standby mode, tuning my antenna, then putting the amplifier into operate mode?

3. Manual tuning - does anyone do anything with this?

This is all pretty new to me as I've never owned an auto tune amplifier before so any help, tips, or tricks are appreciated.

Best Regards,
Michael Almeter
K4LD

1642. RE: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-04 11:25:23 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1641 Message: 1642

Mike;

I also have the 87A with Alpha Max and never use it. The Alpha Amax that is. I also never manual tune it. I just hit it with RF and it does its thing.

My amp was purchased from RF Concepts 2 years ago and is a great amp. I use it remotely over the internet and it has never failed to operate. Hook the amp to your computer and download the free Alpha software and control it from your computer, hi.

You are going to love it.

I can’t believe how far ahead this amp was from all amps in the 90’s. It’s still a great amp in 2015.

I do remove it from the station antennas during the summer as I’m told that lightening can damage the output PIN diodes. I have spares in case. Oh spare used tubes as well.

I use a Ameritron ALS-1300 during the summer.

With all that said I don’t even know who owns the Alpha line? It has changed hands 2 times over the past few years.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 5:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Hello Everyone,

I just purchased an 87A with AlphaMax and have a couple of questions I'd like to ask before powering the amplifier up and working DX.

1. I'm not a person who normally uses legal limit everyday - I like to run about a 600 watts to a KW and if I need the extra power, I'll kick it in. Is this going to be a problem? The documentation on this seems to be unclear (to me) in the manual. "The AlphaMax firmware upgrade enables the Alpha 87A to automatically optimize itself for changes in drive level, or antenna impedance". Should I be fine just adjusting the drive values on my radio when I want to use the extra power?

2. Antenna Tuning... I'm on all wires around here and normally tune the antennas just to be safe. Is the best way to do this just by putting the amplifier in standby mode, tuning my antenna, then putting the amplifier into operate mode?

3. Manual tuning - does anyone do anything with this?

This is all pretty new to me as I've never owned an auto tune amplifier before so any help, tips, or tricks are appreciated.

Best Regards,

Michael Almeter

K4LD

1643. Re: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-04 12:18:14 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1641 Message: 1643

Hello Mike,

Here are notes for using an 87A with AlphaMax firmware (most of them by now). You should definitely tune up the amp with your antennas and save those settings to the memories. If you want to run more power later, you need to engage AlphaMax to re-tune with the higher drive or it will overdrive the amp.

Glenn AE0Q

==========

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A, the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax program would do if it was enabled.

You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and save the settings in USER memories. You do this by pressing ENTER and then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on. When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50 ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out,

fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't really as useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 3:08 AM, mike.k4ld@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hello Everyone,
> I just purchased an 87A with AlphaMax and have a couple of questions
> I'd like to ask before powering the amplifier up and working DX.
>
> 1. I'm not a person who normally uses legal limit everyday - I like
> to run about a 600 watts to a KW and if I need the extra power, I'll kick
> it in. Is this going to be a problem? The documentation on this seems to be
> unclear (to me) in the manual. "The AlphaMax firmware upgrade enables the
> Alpha 87A to automatically optimize itself for changes in drive level, or
> antenna impedance". Should I be fine just adjusting the drive values on
> my radio when I want to use the extra power?
>
>
>

1644. RE: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-04 13:06:11 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1641 Message: 1644

Excellent advice Glenn.

I should have mentioned in my original response to Mikes EMAIL that I never run more than 40 or 50 watts into the 87A. That equates to as much power as I need to bust the pile-ups, hi.

George K

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Hello Mike,

Here are notes for using an 87A with AlphaMax firmware (most of them by now). You should definitely tune up the amp with your antennas and save those settings to the memories. If you want to run more power later, you need to engage AlphaMax to re-tune with the higher drive or it will overdrive the amp.

Glenn AE0Q

==========

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A,
the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax
program would do if it was enabled.

You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and
save the settings in USER memories. You do this by pressing ENTER and
then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on.
When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If
further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune
mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD
LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to
desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50
ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER
buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The
DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in
operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out, fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't really as useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

On Thu, Jun 4, 2015 at 3:08 AM, mike.k4ld@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Hello Everyone,

I just purchased an 87A with AlphaMax and have a couple of questions I'd like to ask before powering the amplifier up and working DX.

1. I'm not a person who normally uses legal limit everyday - I like to run about a 600 watts to a KW and if I need the extra power, I'll kick it in. Is this going to be a problem? The documentation on this seems to be unclear (to me) in the manual. "The AlphaMax firmware upgrade enables the Alpha 87A to automatically optimize itself for changes in drive level, or antenna impedance". Should I be fine just adjusting the drive values on my radio when I want to use the extra power?

1645. Re: [Alpha87a] New 87A Owner

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-04 13:16:17 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1641 Message: 1645

On 6/4/15 5:08 AM, mike.k4ld@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

Hello Everyone,

I just purchased an 87A with AlphaMax and have a couple of questions I'd like to ask before powering the amplifier up and working DX.

1. I'm not a person who normally uses legal limit everyday - I like to run about a 600 watts to a KW and if I need the extra power, I'll kick it in. Is this going to be a problem? The documentation on this seems to be unclear (to me) in the manual. "The AlphaMax firmware upgrade enables the Alpha 87A to automatically optimize itself for changes in drive level, or antenna impedance". Should I be fine just adjusting the drive values on my radio when I want to use the extra power?

Yes. Watch the power out bar graph and don't light up the red LEDs.

2. Antenna Tuning... I'm on all wires around here and normally tune the antennas just to be safe. Is the best way to do this just by putting the amplifier in standby mode, tuning my antenna, then putting the amplifier into operate mode?

Yes. Definitely tune the antennas with low power.

3. Manual tuning - does anyone do anything with this?

Yes. I use the manual tuning technique described in the manual for initial tune up on each band with the primary antenna for that band, then enable AlphaMax to tweak the tuning for changes in frequency or switching to an alternate antenna. Several of my antennas are themselves tunable and I'm not 100% consistent on switching band segments. AlphaMax compensates nicely for such inevitable variations in the load that it sees.

This is all pretty new to me as I've never owned an auto tune amplifier before so any help, tips, or tricks are appreciated.

It's a great amp that protects itself from most common user errors and variations in technique. I suppose it can be abused but it's been a rock for me since new, perhaps 14 years ago.

Have fun.

73,

/Rick N6XI

Best Regard s,

Michael Almeter

K4LD

1646. Fault 18

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-15 21:46:33 UTC
From: Jim Heye
Topic: 1646 Message: 1646

While in stand-by my 87a began showing {Fault 18} (Filament current less than 2 amps - Possible tube open filament) . Somewhere in the past I read a possible fix for this was to open the bottom of the tube deck and clean all the connectors with Deoxit plus a couple of the LV connectors in the power supply. I have done this to no avail.

My next step is to try to set-up a communications link with my computer and the 87a, however my computer doesn't have a serial port and Hyper link is no longer part of Windows. I'm open to suggestions how to link my 87a to a computer,. Any and all help will be appreciated.

Jim K5WLQ

1647. TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-15 21:51:54 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1647 Message: 1647

After experiencing a fault 8, I have determined that one of the TX PIN diodes has failed. Specifically, it's the TX PIN diode closer to the bottom of the chassis which has failed. With replacement parts in hand, it looks to be a bigger job than originally anticipated. It appears that the sub-chassis on which the TX PIN diode board is mounted must be removed completely in order to access the diode mounting studs, is this correct?

I would appreciate any advice on the least-invasive way to replace the TX PIN diodes. The job doesn't look beyond my capabilities, but it would be helpful to know if there are any tips or "gotchas" that I should be aware of. Thanks again to this list and to Glenn for freely sharing your knowledge. I'll report back after the job is complete.

Kirk K4RO

1648. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 18

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-15 22:05:02 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1646 Message: 1648

Jim,

You need a 25-pin USB to Serial Converter. The Alpha web site has one, it comes with a CD that has Hyperterminal on it, or you can use RealTerm, a free program on the internet. I find RealTerm nicer and use it every day.

http://shop.rkrdesignsllc.com/REPLACEMENT-PARTS-LISTED-BY-ALPHA-PRODUCT/Alpha-87a-Parts/Serial-to-USB-Converter-for-Alpha-87A

http://realterm.sourceforge.net/

Glenn AE0Q

On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 3:46 PM, Jim Heye james_heye@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

> While in stand-by my 87a began showing {Fault 18} (Filament current
> less than 2 amps - Possible tube open filament) . Somewhere in the past I
> read a possible fix for this was to open the bottom of the tube deck and
> clean all the connectors with Deoxit plus a couple of the LV connectors in
> the power supply. I have done this to no avail.
>
> My next step is to try to set-up a communications link with my computer
> and the 87a, however my computer doesn't have a serial port and Hyper link
> is no longer part of Windows. I'm open to suggestions how to link my 87a to
> a computer,. Any and all help will be appreciated.
>
> Jim K5WLQ
>
>

1649. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-15 23:27:33 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1647 Message: 1649

Check out w8TN’s website. He has an Alpha 87 pin repair blog including great pictures of how he got the board out to replace the TX diodes. Also if you get some other good replies or pictures please share !!

http://w8tn.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2013-08-02T15:24:00-04:00 <http://w8tn.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2013-08-02T15:24:00-04:00&max-results=15> &max-results=15

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 5:52 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

After experiencing a fault 8, I have determined that one of the TX PIN diodes has failed. Specifically, it's the TX PIN diode closer to the bottom of the chassis which has failed. With replacement parts in hand, it looks to be a bigger job than originally anticipated. It appears that the sub-chassis on which the TX PIN diode board is mounted must be removed completely in order to access the diode mounting studs, is this correct?

I would appreciate any advice on the least-invasive way to replace the TX PIN diodes. The job doesn't look beyond my capabilities, but it would be helpful to know if there are any tips or "gotchas" that I should be aware of. Thanks again to this list and to Glenn for freely sharing your knowledge. I'll report back after the job is complete.

Kirk K4RO

1650. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 18

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-06-16 02:35:24 UTC
From: James Heye
Topic: 1646 Message: 1650

Glenn,
Thanks for the info. I will order the USB to Serial converter cable from Alpha tomorrow . I have a USB to Serial converter cable but I don't think I have a 9 pin to 25 pin adaptor. Anyway in my limited experience some brands of USB to serial cables work with a particular rig others do not. Their is no use fighting 2 problems.
I will also take your advise and use the freeware.

Best 73's and stay tuned

Sent from my iPad
Jim

> On Jun 15, 2015, at 5:05 PM, Glenn Pladsen gm5bkc@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Jim,
>
> You need a 25-pin USB to Serial Converter. The Alpha web site has one, it comes with a CD that has Hyperterminal on it, or you can use RealTerm, a free program on the internet. I find RealTerm nicer and use it every day.
>
> http://shop.rkrdesignsllc.com/REPLACEMENT-PARTS-LISTED-BY-ALPHA-PRODUCT/Alpha-87a-Parts/Serial-to-USB-Converter-for-Alpha-87A
>
> http://realterm.sourceforge.net/
>
> Glenn AE0Q
>
>
>> On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 3:46 PM, Jim Heye james_heye@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>> While in stand-by my 87a began showing {Fault 18} (Filament current less than 2 amps - Possible tube open filament) . Somewhere in the past I read a possible fix for this was to open the bottom of the tube deck and clean all the connectors with Deoxit plus a couple of the LV connectors in the power supply. I have done this to no avail.
>> My next step is to try to set-up a communications link with my computer and the 87a, however my computer doesn't have a serial port and Hyper link is no longer part of Windows. I'm open to suggestions how to link my 87a to a computer,. Any and all help will be appreciated.
>>
>> Jim K5WLQ
>>
>
>
>

1651. Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-08 16:17:06 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1647 Message: 1651

I've just completed replacement of the transmit PIN diodes in an Alpha 87A. The repair was successful, and I decided to document the entire procedure while it was still fresh in my mind. You can read it here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/TX-PIN-Diode-Replacement.pdf

Some photos are available here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/PIN-Diode-Photos/

If there are steps that I should have performed differently, I would appreciate any suggestions. Thanks to AE0Q, W9RE, N4UQ and W8TN for sharing their information and photos. Hopefully this document will be of value for the next person faced with the task of replacing the transmit PIN diodes.

Kirk K4RO

On 6/15/2015 4:51 PM, K4RO Kirk Pickering k4ro@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
> After experiencing a fault 8, I have determined that one of the TX PIN
> diodes has failed. Specifically, it's the TX PIN diode closer to the
> bottom of the chassis which has failed. With replacement parts in hand,
> it looks to be a bigger job than originally anticipated. It appears that
> the sub-chassis on which the TX PIN diode board is mounted must be
> removed completely in order to access the diode mounting studs, is this
> correct?
>
> I would appreciate any advice on the least-invasive way to replace the
> TX PIN diodes. The job doesn't look beyond my capabilities, but it would
> be helpful to know if there are any tips or "gotchas" that I should be
> aware of. Thanks again to this list and to Glenn for freely sharing your
> knowledge. I'll report back after the job is complete.
>
> Kirk K4RO

1652. Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-09 17:19:15 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1647 Message: 1652

Looks great, Kirk, but one note of caution:

I had to replace both TX PIN diodes, too. I also had fault 8 and fault 9 statuses. I went through similar troubleshooting and found one bad TX PIN diode. But when I replaced it the amp would operate fine up to just below max power, 1500W, and then would fault (can't recall the fault number.) I replaced the other TX PIN diode, but that didn't help.

The cause of the fault, and also the cause of the TX PIN diode failure, turned out to be arcing between L1 and the PCB ground plane. L1 is the inductor with green wire on the T/R board not far from the TX PIN diodes. In my case, the insulation pad underneath the inductor had rotted away, putting the inductor wires in contact with the board. I guess the arcs burned a hole through the thin coating of the magnet wire and the PCB to get to the ground plane and a nearby screw.

Note that the damage was not visible until I looked at L1 very closely (at Glenn's suggestion.) The clue was very slight burn marks around the nearby screw. Not something I would have noticed had I not been looking for it. The burn marks and hole in the PCB were underneath L1 and completely covered by it until I nudged it out of the way.

I was able to fix the problem easily by removing L1, rewinding it, and reinstalling it on top of a small rubber pad (of a material not likely to rot.)

I suggest carefully checking L1 whenever a TX PIN diode fails in the 87A.

73, Dick WC1M

1653. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-09 23:22:07 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1647 Message: 1653

Dick;

I also own a 87A and have a question on the pin diodes you replaced.

Are they the ones in the output RF stage in the little cage in the rear center of the top of the amp? The expensive ones that bolt to the rear of the amp.

I have 2 spare power output pin diodes just in case of failure if those are the ones you are talking about.

Thanks.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Looks great, Kirk, but one note of caution:

I had to replace both TX PIN diodes, too. I also had fault 8 and fault 9 statuses. I went through similar troubleshooting and found one bad TX PIN diode. But when I replaced it the amp would operate fine up to just below max power, 1500W, and then would fault (can't recall the fault number.) I replaced the other TX PIN diode, but that didn't help.

The cause of the fault, and also the cause of the TX PIN diode failure, turned out to be arcing between L1 and the PCB ground plane. L1 is the inductor with green wire on the T/R board not far from the TX PIN diodes. In my case, the insulation pad underneath the inductor had rotted away, putting the inductor wires in contact with the board. I guess the arcs burned a hole through the thin coating of the magnet wire and the PCB to get to the ground plane and a nearby screw.

Note that the damage was not visible until I looked at L1 very closely (at Glenn's suggestion.) The clue was very slight burn marks around the nearby screw. Not something I would have noticed had I not been looking for it. The burn marks and hole in the PCB were underneath L1 and completely covered by it until I nudged it out of the way.

I was able to fix the problem easily by removing L1, rewinding it, and reinstalling it on top of a small rubber pad (of a material not likely to rot.)

I suggest carefully checking L1 whenever a TX PIN diode fails in the 87A.

73, Dick WC1M

1654. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-10 08:02:15 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1647 Message: 1654

I replaced the two TX PIN diodes -- the ones that bolt to the rear of the amp.

1655. RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-10 11:43:51 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1647 Message: 1655

OK that is the ones I thought you changed but I wanted to be sure. As a matter of fact I also bought a spare front panel. Don’t ask me why I just did it, hi.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2015 4:02 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

I replaced the two TX PIN diodes -- the ones that bolt to the rear of the amp.

1656. Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-13 15:16:06 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1647 Message: 1656

Thanks for your reply Dick. I had read about the potential damage to L1, but it appears that L1 in this particular unit is OK. I wasn't able to inspect the inductor fully, but I ran the amp at 2.1 kW into a dummy load and didn't have any problems. The amp got a good workout during last weekend's IARU contest and ran perfectly fine at legal limit.

Thanks again to all who provided input on replacing the diodes.

73, Kirk K4RO

On 7/9/2015 12:19 PM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
>
> Looks great, Kirk, but one note of caution:
>
> I had to replace both TX PIN diodes, too. I also had fault 8 and fault 9
> statuses. I went through similar troubleshooting and found one bad TX
> PIN diode. But when I replaced it the amp would operate fine up to just
> below max power, 1500W, and then would fault (can't recall the fault
> number.) I replaced the other TX PIN diode, but that didn't help.
>
> The cause of the fault, and also the cause of the TX PIN diode failure,
> turned out to be arcing between L1 and the PCB ground plane. L1 is the
> inductor with green wire on the T/R board not far from the TX PIN
> diodes. In my case, the insulation pad underneath the inductor had
> rotted away, putting the inductor wires in contact with the board. I
> guess the arcs burned a hole through the thin coating of the magnet wire
> and the PCB to get to the ground plane and a nearby screw.
>
> Note that the damage was not visible until I looked at L1 very closely
> (at Glenn's suggestion.) The clue was very slight burn marks around the
> nearby screw. Not something I would have noticed had I not been looking
> for it. The burn marks and hole in the PCB were underneath L1 and
> completely covered by it until I nudged it out of the way.
>
> I was able to fix the problem easily by removing L1, rewinding it, and
> reinstalling it on top of a small rubber pad (of a material not likely
> to rot.)
>
> I suggest carefully checking L1 whenever a TX PIN diode fails in the 87A.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
>

1657. Which microprocessor version in the Alpha 87A?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-30 02:26:02 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1657 Message: 1657

Does anyone know which version of the 68HC11 microprocessor is used on the 87A? I know that each Alpha 87a has a unique set of settings stored on the microprocessor in addition to the operational code. I have backed up the unique settings from my Alpha 87a from memory location B600 - B7FF. I assume the version used is the MC68HC11E1 which only has 512 bytes of RAM and 512 bytes of EEPROM... so my backup should be complete but can anyone confirm?

73 Jerry
K1JOS

1658. Wanted: Front Panel and Top Cover

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-07-31 22:57:58 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1658 Message: 1658

Looking for a front panel and top cover for the Alpha 87A.

New would be nice, but at this point I would settle for clean used ones.

Even a front panel with the common "bare metal showing on outer edges" issue would suffice as long as the front area itself is in nice shape. Same with the top cover.....Anyone picky enough to swap theirs out due to a minor mark or two? I have an 87A that is perfect electrically, but unfortunately the previous owner's concern for cosmetics was lacking., so I would prefer to replace the panels if at all possible.

Thanks,
Eric
K2CB
609-713-3742

1659. Re: [Alpha87a] Wanted: Front Panel and Top Cover

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-01 22:40:59 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1658 Message: 1659

Hello Eric,

Within the last three months there have been at least two posts announcing the availability of 87A front/back panels. You might search on the Yahoo site to find them.

Best regards,
Larry

On 31 Jul 2015 15:57:58 -0700, "k2cb@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> Looking for a front panel and top cover for the Alpha 87A.
>
>
> New would be nice, but at this point I would settle for clean used ones.
>
>
> Even a front panel with the common "bare metal showing on outer edges" issue would suffice as long as the front area itself is in nice shape. Same with the top cover.....Anyone picky enough to swap theirs out due to a minor mark or two? I have an 87A that is perfect electrically, but unfortunately the previous owner's concern for cosmetics was lacking., so I would prefer to replace the panels if at all possible.
>
>
> Thanks,
> Eric
> K2CB
> 609-713-3742
>

1660. 87A Cover For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-01 23:46:22 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1660 Message: 1660

I have a new, still in the box, cover for the 87A.

Ordered a few years ago and never installed it.

RF Concepts wants $150.00 plus shipping. I will take $125.00 including shipping within the CONUS.

Contact me off reflector at KB0X "at" ARRL "dot" NET

Jim

KB0X

1661. RE: [Alpha87a] Wanted: Front Panel and Top Cover

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-02 02:10:05 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1658 Message: 1661

Hi Larry

I searched the Alpha87a Group site and did a google search but could not find anyone offering replacement front panels. Do you perhaps have more info?

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 01, 2015 6:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: k2cb@...
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Wanted: Front Panel and Top Cover

Hello Eric,

Within the last three months there have been at least two posts announcing the
availability of 87A front/back panels. You might search on the Yahoo site to find them.

Best regards,
Larry

On 31 Jul 2015 15:57:58 -0700, "k2cb@... [Alpha87a]
<mailto:k2cb@...%20[Alpha87a]> "
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> Looking for a front panel and top cover for the Alpha 87A.
>
>
> New would be nice, but at this point I would settle for clean used ones.
>
>
> Even a front panel with the common "bare metal showing on outer edges" issue would suffice as long as the front area itself is in nice shape. Same with the top cover.....Anyone picky enough to swap theirs out due to a minor mark or two? I have an 87A that is perfect electrically, but unfortunately the previous owner's concern for cosmetics was lacking., so I would prefer to replace the panels if at all possible.
>
>
> Thanks,
> Eric

> K2CB
> 609-713-3742
>

1662. Re: [Alpha87a] Wanted: Front Panel and Top Cover

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-02 13:14:39 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1658 Message: 1662

On Sat, 1 Aug 2015 22:10:05 -0400, "'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi Larry
>
>
>
>I searched the Alpha87a Group site and did a google search but could not
>find anyone offering replacement front panels. Do you perhaps have more
>info?
>
>
>
>73 Jerry
>
>K1JOS
>

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure
From: "'George' goofyham@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Fri, 10 Jul 2015 07:43:51 -0400

OK that is the ones I thought you changed but I wanted to be sure. As a matter
of fact I also bought a spare front panel. Don□t ask me why I just did it, hi.

George K W2YJ

Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Anyone have a New 87A Front Panel??`
From: "'Jim Walker' jim@walkersdomain.com [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, 30 Mar 2015 23:35:56 -0500

Jerry,

If you need the top/sides for the 87A, I have one still brand new in the box.
Let me know off the group at kb0x at arrl dot net.
Jim
KB0X

1663. For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-03 16:58:02 UTC
From: Ed Privette
Topic: 1663 Message: 1663

Hi Guys

I have been QRT for 7 years now and it's time to start liquidating gear. I have a really nice 87A with auxiliary fan, full output. Anyone interested before it goes on eBay and QTH.com?

73, Ed W4EP

ed@...

1664. Re: [Alpha87a] For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-03 17:10:14 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1663 Message: 1664

Price?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 3, 2015, at 11:58 AM, 'Ed Privette' ed@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> Hi Guys
>
> I have been QRT for 7 years now and it’s time to start liquidating gear. I have a really nice 87A with auxiliary fan, full output. Anyone interested before it goes on eBay and QTH.com?
>
> 73, Ed W4EP
> ed@...
>
>
>

1665. Fault 99

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-04 13:09:31 UTC
From: vk5cp@...
Topic: 1665 Message: 1665

My 87A has a fault where it groans as the tuning changes at start up then faults, normally it does it 2-3 times then boots up. its gone code 99.i don't was to ship it from vk to us - can some one help me with the cods to reset the 87A please

vk5cp

1666. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 99

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-04 18:20:01 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1665 Message: 1666

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:
http://asktheham.com/node/56 https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.
==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

On Tuesday, August 4, 2015 8:09 AM, "vk5cp@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

My 87A has a fault where it groans as the tuning changes at start up then faults, normally it does it 2-3 times then boots up. its gone code 99.i don't was to ship it from vk to us - can some one help me with the cods to reset the 87A please
vk5cp

1667. Re: For Sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-04 21:42:07 UTC
From: Ed Privette
Topic: 1663 Message: 1667

$4300 + shipping in original boxes OBO

1668. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 99

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-08-05 11:46:53 UTC
From: Lee Moyle
Topic: 1665 Message: 1668

Hi Chris

I recall a couple of years ago I got the Fault 99, big panic but connected the PC to the alpha via a "real"serial port and manually reset all the memory locations.
It came back to life :)

so far so good.

Try these.

http://www.rkrdesignsllc.com/support/product-documentation/product-documentation/alpha-87a/

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha_reset/descr/alpha%20reset.html

http://www.hamradio.com/documents/alphamax.pdf

Regards
Lee VK3GK

----- Original Message -----
From: Cyrus Turner cyrusturner@... [Alpha87a]
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 4:20 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 99

Some info on detecting and clearing a Fault 99 can be found here:

http://asktheham.com/node/56

https://system.netsuite.com/core/media/media.nl?id=3330&c=1065250&h=9d98332e6ef2a453c38e&_xt=.pdf

The Alpha 87A manual has information about connecting a terminal program to the amplifier and configuring the comm settings in the terminal program. I ran into this myself last week and the second link here worked for me.

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

On Tuesday, August 4, 2015 8:09 AM, "vk5cp@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

My 87A has a fault where it groans as the tuning changes at start up then faults, normally it does it 2-3 times then boots up. its gone code 99.i don't was to ship it from vk to us - can some one help me with the cods to reset the 87A please

vk5cp

1669. Program to use

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-09-15 14:20:12 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1669 Message: 1669

Hello Everyone,

As yo can see, I am new to this. I just received my first Alpha and have never had an Amplifier that connects to a computer before,so I have a few questions.
1- how would i find out if I have AlphaMax in my Amp,the last owner is a SK (estate Sale).
2- what is the better program to use.
3- has anyone come up with a way to use an Arduino to emulate the DAS (the price for a DAS is a little high for me)

Thank you for any and all help.
73, Brian W8TFI

1670. Re: [Alpha87a] Program to use

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-09-15 14:29:04 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1669 Message: 1670

Hello Brian,

Here are some notes on 87A faults, connecting a PC to read them, and at the end the best way to use an 87A that does have AlphaMax firmware (it is firmware version 1.00AT).

The DAS was an antenna relay control unit that just monitored the commands from the 87A serial port and switched relays if an antenna number was programmed into the 87A memory for a particular band. It did not communicate back to the 87A.

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Amplifiers (RKR Designs LLC)

==========
Please unplug the 87A for 2 minutes and then plug it back in to the 240v. This will reset the microprocessor and can sometimes correct erratic operation (possibly caused by stray RF), although it will NOT clear hard faults or remove them from the fault log.

The 87A should 'talk' to the PC anytime it is plugged into mains power, even when it is turned off. This is the best troubleshooting tool that we have.

Below are some notes about the 87A fault protection and instructions for clearing the fault log.

IMPORTANT !!!!!

Please remember that when the 87A gets a hard fault and then the power is turned back on, it will report the fault for 30 seconds and then clear automatically. You must not turn off the power before the fault clears (about 30 seconds), or it will log another hard fault
the next time the power is turned on.
Also remember that six of the SAME hard fault shutdowns over ANY period of time (with no other kind of Hard fault) will then put the 87A in Fault 99 which locks it up. This function was put in the amplifier to prevent any further damage if operation was attempted after a failure had occurred.
If you keep turning off the power before a hard fault has cleared, and this causes 6 of the same hard faults to be entered in the fault log, the 87A will then go into Fault 99 and will not turn on.
Also, if the 87A is turned on 6 times when it keeps shutting down immediately because of a hard fault, it will go into Fault 99.

Here are two sets of instructions, one for setting up Hyperterm that is built into most versions of Windows for the communications, and the second

set is for clearing the Fault 99.

To find out what the status of the amplifier is, you need to use a modem communications program like RealTerm or HyperTerminal. It is usually located in the ACCESSORIES program group.

Download RealTerm from http://realterm.sourceforge.net/ .

Install RealTerm and it will open a window for a new connection. Select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE.

Click on HYPERTRM.EXE and it will open a window for a new connection. Give it a name, and in the next window select the "Connect Using: Direct to COMx" pulldown menu; select the Com port you will use. If the COM port you select is available it will open another box called "COMx Properties". Going down the list, select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE. Click OK to close the window. Now pull down the FILE menu and click PROPERTIES. Click the SETTING tab and then click ASCII SETUP at the bottom of the window. Click the box for "Echo typed characters locally" (it could have a check in the box). Click OK to close both windows.

Plug in the amp (power off) and it should be communicating with the computer. Type VER and press the Enter key. The 87A should respond with the firmware version number.

****
ATTENTION ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!
****
If you see garble (or nothing) you will need to remove pin 22 of the 25-pin end of the cable (the 87A end). It is used to set the baudrate of the amplifier. Page 19 of the 87A manual has a complete explanation of the communications connections.
****

When it is communicating OK, type SF and HF to display the Soft Fault and Hard Fault logs (press Enter key after each command). Save the result of those commands.

A list of more commands is on pages 20 and 21 of the 87A manual (pages 40 and 41 in 87A Manual Rev 1.0)
==========

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A, the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax program would do if it was enabled.

An addendum to the 87A manual was included with AlphaMax kits that were installed in the field, or you can download a copy of the new version of the 87A manual (with instructions for using AlphaMax) from our web site:

http://www.rfconcepts.com

You should tune up the amp with your antennas on each band/segment and save the settings in USER memories. You do this by pressing ENTER and then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on. When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled. If it is not enabled, the TUNE and/or LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50 ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for 1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out, fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't really as useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

On Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 8:20 AM, w8tfi@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hello Everyone,

>
> As yo can see, I am new to this. I just received my first Alpha and have
> never had an Amplifier that connects to a computer before,so I have a few
> questions.
> 1- how would i find out if I have AlphaMax in my Amp,the last owner is a
> SK (estate Sale).
> 2- what is the better program to use.
> 3- has anyone come up with a way to use an Arduino to emulate the DAS (the
> price for a DAS is a little high for me)
>
> Thank you for any and all help.
> 73, Brian W8TFI
>
> --
Glenn and Katie
MX, MXJ, OF,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-EAC, O-TG-E, HP-O,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1671. Re: [Bulk] [Alpha87a] Program to use

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-09-16 00:27:38 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1669 Message: 1671

Hello Brian,

You're in good hands with Glenn.

I might add, that the terminal program PUTTY works well for accessing the 87A via RS232. Putty is available here: <http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html>. Of course, you'll have to configure your serial port for 4800 Baud with Windows Device Manager.

You may want to reconsider your decision to forego the DAS, as it intimately integrates itself into the operation of the 87A. I purchased a previously owned DAS from Molly at RF Concepts, and while it wasn't cheap, it was like new and functions flawlessly.

You'll find Dick Ehrnorn's videos regarding the DAS instructive: <http://kj6yvt.com/remote_antenna_selector.htm>.

Take a look at the antennas selector relay box I built here: <http://kj6yvt.com/remote_ant_relays.htm>. It too has been operationally without flaw since installed. The double-relay-contact-gap (two gaps) design appears to provide adequate isolation from the grounded antennas while transmitting.

Best regards,
Larry

On 15 Sep 2015 07:20:12 -0700, "w8tfi@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hello Everyone,
>
>As yo can see, I am new to this. I just received my first Alpha and have never had an Amplifier that connects to a computer before,so I have a few questions.
>1- how would i find out if I have AlphaMax in my Amp,the last owner is a SK (estate Sale).
>2- what is the better program to use.
>3- has anyone come up with a way to use an Arduino to emulate the DAS (the price for a DAS is a little high for me)
>
>Thank you for any and all help.
>73, Brian W8TFI

1897:
Radio has no future.
--Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society

Home Page: http://kj6yvt.com

1672. Hard Fault 22

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-10-09 17:45:57 UTC
From: hb9zs@...
Topic: 1672 Message: 1672

With power power switch on my linear will trip immediately with hard fault 22.
Communication with the terminal is ok. The amplifier was modified in 1999 by Alpha.
Fuse FS1 "2A" on the low voltage power supply is ok.

I disconnected the tubes and the high voltage power connection of the transformer. Same results.

Then I disconnected all the connectors on the high and low voltage power supply boards except the J1 connector of the low voltage power supply board. Also disconnected J3 connector of the AC module board. With a Jumper on pin 3 and 4, I energized the linear . Cooling fan was running. The Voltages on pin 10 to pin 15 of connector J6 “Test connector” of the Low voltage power supply are ok.

What else can I do to bring the linear back to life.

Any help will be very much appreciated
Walter, HB9ZS

1673. Re: [Alpha87a] Hard Fault 22

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-10-09 23:33:20 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1672 Message: 1673

Hello Walter,

Here's what I have:

==========
http://asktheham.com/node/52
Alpha 87A Fault 22
published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:04
Forums:

Alpha 87A Entries

If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a blown
step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal
strip), or can indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown.

The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked
125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The
LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted.

This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white).
This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High
Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge
of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less
than 10 ohms.

Another cause of the amp shutting down can be a shorted tube. You can test
that by either removing the tubes, or by disconnecting the red HV lead from
the left-rear corner of the HV power supply board. It will still get a
fault, but should not be a hard fault.

Hope that helps.

In any event, please report your progress, findings, and results.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Larry

On 09 Oct 2015 10:45:57 -0700, "hb9zs@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> With power power switch on my linear will trip immediately with hard fault 22. Communication with the terminal is ok. The amplifier was modified in 1999 by Alpha.
> Fuse FS1 "2A" on the low voltage power supply is ok.
>

> I disconnected the tubes and the high voltage power connection of the transformer. Same results.
>
> Then I disconnected all the connectors on the high and low voltage power supply boards except the J1 connector of the low voltage power supply board. Also disconnected J3 connector of the AC module board. With a Jumper on pin 3 and 4, I energized the linear . Cooling fan was running. The Voltages on pin 10 to pin 15 of connector J6 ☐Test connector☐ of the Low voltage power supply are ok.
>
> What else can I do to bring the linear back to life.
>
> Any help will be very much appreciated
> Walter, HB9ZS
>

1674. AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-08 13:23:14 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1674 Message: 1674

Is there still a source for the parts/firmware to add AlphaMax to a 87A which does not have it installed? Barney K3LA

1675. 87A starts for itself!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-08 14:17:40 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1675 Message: 1675

This happened twice, so far, in complete aleatory situations, having left the AMP OFF, astonished to see it starting by itself! This happened a couple of weeks ago, in the meanwhile amp working fine in all functions. This morning when powering it ON nothing happened - I mean doesnt start - no code faults nothing. AMP doesnt react to ON. I've heard some mechanical noises, when pressing ON button, coming from the rear right corner, I suppose, but after a couple of tries those clicks disappeared . I've opned it and found the fuse burned out. Replaced with an equal one but same behaviour: doesnt start, not even a noise...someone can help pse? This AMP has been completely revised in ALPHA USA July 2015!
Thanks in advance for your advise about possible cause of failure.
Best 73 de Luís, CT4NH

1676. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A starts for itself!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 12:02:49 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1675 Message: 1676

I was thinking that some stray RF may have gotten into the control circuits, and was going to suggest some ferrite, but that wouldn't blow a fuse. At any rate, removing the power plug from the wall outlet for some seconds will reset the microprocessor.

On Sun, 8 Nov 2015 14:17:40 +0000, "Luis Teixeira xx9tnh@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>This happened twice, so far, in complete aleatory situations, having left
>the AMP OFF, astonished to see it starting by itself! This happened a
>couple of weeks ago, in the meanwhile amp working fine in all functions.
>This morning when powering it ON nothing happened - I mean doesnt start -
>no code faults nothing. AMP doesnt react to ON. I've heard some mechanical
>noises, when pressing ON button, coming from the rear right corner, I
>suppose, but after a couple of tries those clicks disappeared . I've opned
>it and found the fuse burned out. Replaced with an equal one but same
>behaviour: doesnt start, not even a noise...someone can help pse? This AMP
>has been completely revised in ALPHA USA July 2015!
>Thanks in advance for your advise about possible cause of failure.
>Best 73 de Luís, CT4NH

1677. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 14:50:50 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1674 Message: 1677

I thought it was all available from RF Concepts yet.
Larry, KN8N

On Sunday, November 8, 2015 8:23 AM, "scholl@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  Is there still a source for the parts/firmware to add AlphaMax to a 87A which does not have it installed? Barney K3LA

1678. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A starts for itself!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 17:47:54 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1675 Message: 1678

Thanks for answer Larry.
I've just sent the amp to local 'doctor' (as matter of fact is the ICOM dealer...) and wait until they make the diagnosis. I'll keep this comunity informed about what happened.
73 Luis, CT4NH

1679. Re: [Alpha87a] 87A starts for itself!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 18:05:31 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1675 Message: 1679

Luis,

If the 87A does not respond to the ON switch at all, it is probably in Fault 99 condition. This must be cleared via the serial port connection to a PC.

Make sure that BOTH fuses in the AC Module are good (the 1.25A step-start fuse and also the 100ma miniature fuse inside the module). The microprocessor runs on the 5V supply any time the amp is plugged into AC power.

See instructions below. *Please pass these on to the person working on your 87A amplifier!!!*

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Amplifiers (RKR DesignsLLC)

==========

Please unplug the 87A for 2 minutes and then plug it back in to the 240v. This will reset the microprocessor and can sometimes correct erratic operation (possibly caused by stray RF), although it will NOT clear hard faults or remove them from the fault log.

The 87A should 'talk' to the PC anytime it is plugged into mains power, even when it is turned off. This is the best troubleshooting tool that we have.

Below are some notes about the 87A fault protection and instructions for clearing the fault log.

IMPORTANT !!!!!

Please remember that when the 87A gets a hard fault and then the power is turned back on, it will report the fault for 30 seconds and then clear automatically. You must not turn off the power before the fault clears (about 30 seconds), or it will log another hard fault
the next time the power is turned on.
Also remember that six of the SAME hard fault shutdowns over ANY period of time (with no other kind of Hard fault) will then put the 87A in Fault 99 which locks it up. This function was put in the amplifier to prevent any further damage if operation was attempted after a failure had occurred.
If you keep turning off the power before a hard fault has cleared, and this causes 6 of the same hard faults to be entered in the fault log, the 87A will then go into Fault 99 and will not turn on.
Also, if the 87A is turned on 6 times when it keeps shutting down

immediately because of a hard fault, it will go into Fault 99.

Here are two sets of instructions, one for setting up Hyperterm that is built into many versions of Windows for the communications, and the second set is for clearing the Fault 99.

To find out what the status of the amplifier is, you need to use a modem communications program like RealTerm or HyperTerminal. It is usually located in the ACCESSORIES program group.
Hyperterminal can be downloaded from the RF Concepts web site DOWNLOADS page.

Download RealTerm from http://realterm.sourceforge.net/ .

Install RealTerm and it will open a window for a new connection. Select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE.

Click on HYPERTRM.EXE and it will open a window for a new connection. Give it a name, and in the next window select the "Connect Using: Direct to COMx" pulldown menu; select the Com port you will use. If the COM port you select is available it will open another box called "COMx Properties". Going down the list, select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE. Click OK to close the window. Now pull down the FILE menu and click PROPERTIES. Click the SETTING tab and then click ASCII SETUP at the bottom of the window. Click the box for "Echo typed characters locally" (it could have a check in the box). Click OK to close both windows.

Plug in the amp (power off) and it should be communicating with the computer. Type VER and press the Enter key. The 87A should respond with the firmware version number.

****
ATTENTION ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!
****
If you see garble (or nothing) you will need to remove pin 22 of the 25-pin end of the cable (the 87A end). It is used to set the baudrate of the amplifier. Page 19 of the 87A manual has a complete explanation of the communications connections.
****

When it is communicating OK, type SF and HF to display the Soft Fault and Hard Fault logs (press Enter key after each command). Save the result of those commands.

A list of more commands is on pages 20 and 21 of the 87A manual (pages 40 and 41 in 87A Manual Rev 1.0)

Procedure to clear fault "99"

To clear a fault "99" on an Alpha 87A amplifier with a terminal attached. Type in the following commands and enter them for each new line.

NOTE!!! To eliminate typing errors you can cut and past them in one block into the Hyperterm connect window and hit enter to send the entire list to the 87A.

```
EXT ON
W B71A FF
W B71B FF
W B71C FF
W B71D FF
W B71E FF
W B71F FF
W B720 FF
W B721 FF
W B724 FF
W B725 FF
W B726 FF
W B727 FF
W B728 FF
W B729 FF
W B72A FF
W B72B FF
W B72C 0C
W B72D B5
W B7D4 CB
W B7D5 20
W B7D6 DA
W B7D7 98
W B7E0 FF
W B7E1 FF
W B7E2 FF
W B7E3 FF
W B7E4 FF
W B7E5 FF
W B7E6 FF
W B7E7 FF
HF
SF
```

When you type HF and SF they should show all 00.

Unplug the 87A from the mains power for 30 seconds. This resets the microprocessor. The amplifier is now ready for normal use.

On Sun, Nov 8, 2015 at 7:17 AM, Luis Teixeira xx9tnh@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>

> This happened twice, so far, in complete aleatory situations, having left
> the AMP OFF, astonished to see it starting by itself! This happened a
> couple of weeks ago, in the meanwhile amp working fine in all functions.
> This morning when powering it ON nothing happened - I mean doesnt start -
> no code faults nothing. AMP doesnt react to ON. I've heard some mechanical
> noises, when pressing ON button, coming from the rear right corner, I
> suppose, but after a couple of tries those clicks disappeared . I've opned
> it and found the fuse burned out. Replaced with an equal one but same
> behaviour: doesnt start, not even a noise...someone can help pse? This AMP
> has been completely revised in ALPHA USA July 2015!
> Thanks in advance for your advise about possible cause of failure.
> Best 73 de Luís, CT4NH
>
> _
>
--
Glenn and Katie
MX, MXJ, OF,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-EAC, O-EJC, O-TG-E, HP-O,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1680. Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 21:59:04 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1680 Message: 1680

All of a sudden I noticed a large drop off in power out. On #2 radio setup with 65 watts in only 1000 watts out (confirmed by LED’s on amp and wattmeter) . #1 position same radio/amp for 60 in I get 1500 out. Since it came up all of a sudden I am wondering if there could be anything else causing the problem? Also looking for any suggestions on sources for the tubes. Alpha says they are out and not sure about supply (when they will have any). RF Parts does carry the Chinese version.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1681. RE: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 22:30:28 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1680 Message: 1681

Same on all bands?

Worse on 10 and better on 80?

Jim – KR9U

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

All of a sudden I noticed a large drop off in power out. On #2 radio setup with 65 watts in only 1000 watts out (confirmed by LED’s on amp and wattmeter) . #1 position same radio/amp for 60 in I get 1500 out. Since it came up all of a sudden I am wondering if there could be anything else causing the problem? Also looking for any suggestions on sources for the tubes. Alpha says they are out and not sure about supply (when they will have any). RF Parts does carry the Chinese version.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1682. RE: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-09 22:33:45 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1680 Message: 1682

Mike

What do you mean by #2 and #1 – are these two different transceivers feeding the same 87A? If so then sounds like a radio, coax or switch problem? I would recommend buying from the Alpha folks as they select the Chinese tubes for low grid current at full drive.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

All of a sudden I noticed a large drop off in power out. On #2 radio setup with 65 watts in only 1000 watts out (confirmed by LED’s on amp and wattmeter) . #1 position same radio/amp for 60 in I get 1500 out. Since it came up all of a sudden I am wondering if there could be anything else causing the problem? Also looking for any suggestions on sources for the tubes. Alpha says they are out and not sure about supply (when they will have any). RF Parts does carry the Chinese version.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1683. RE: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 03:00:21 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1680 Message: 1683

A little more info:

On 80, 20 and 10 input/output almost the same for 60 input I get 1000 out (maybe a little less on 10). I remember that initially when I tuned up and discovered the low output on each band I had high grid current from my default settings. I do have an old pair of tubes that I replaced in amp #1 this problem is on amp #2.

Also I have (2) K3's and (2) 87A's what I meant was #1 position and #2 position.

Thanks again for any input,

Mike W9RE

1684. RE: [Alpha87a] Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 03:15:58 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 1680 Message: 1684

Mike,

You could swap tubes between the amps and see if it follows the tubes. Usually, if the tubes are soft you will see lower gain on 10 vs. 80 meters and the fact that it was a radical change leads me to think that it might not be the tubes. If not the tubes, then the high grid current would lead me to look at a tuning problem. Especially since it is not showing any fault codes.

Jim – KR9U

A little more info:

On 80, 20 and 10 input/output almost the same for 60 input I get 1000 out (maybe a little less on 10). I remember that initially when I tuned up and discovered the low output on each band I had high grid current from my default settings. I do have an old pair of tubes that I replaced in amp #1 this problem is on amp #2.

Also I have (2) K3's and (2) 87A's what I meant was #1 position and #2 position.

Thanks again for any input,

Mike W9RE

1685. Re: Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 17:06:01 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 1680 Message: 1685

Is the Hi/Low switch in the Hi position? You'll get the symptoms you're seeing if the switch is in the Low postion. It should never be used.

73, Dick WC1M

1686. Re: Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 19:18:40 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1680 Message: 1686

Dick,

That was it!!!!

Not sure how that switch got in the 'Lo' position. Thanks you saved me a bunch of $ and headaches of moving the amp off a high shelf, I owe a beer or more!

Thanks

Mike W9RE

1687. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 23:06:34 UTC
From: Glenn Pladsen
Topic: 1674 Message: 1687

Barney,

We do have more sets of AlphaMax firmware for the 87A in stock, it is available on our web site:

http://shop.rkrdesignsllc.com/REPLACEMENT-PARTS-LISTED-BY-ALPHA-PRODUCT/Alpha-87a-Parts/AlphaMax-Firmware-upgrade-for-older-87A-amplifiers

73 - Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Amplifiers
RKR DesignsLLC

On Sun, Nov 8, 2015 at 6:23 AM, scholl@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Is there still a source for the parts/firmware to add AlphaMax to a 87A
> which does not have it installed? Barney K3LA
> __.'_._
>

--
Glenn and Katie
MX, MXJ, OF,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-EAC, O-EJC, O-TG-E, HP-O,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1688. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-10 23:32:43 UTC
From: Barney Scholl
Topic: 1674 Message: 1688

Thanks I could find before.

Barney

> On Nov 10, 2015, at 6:06 PM, Glenn Pladsen gm5bkc@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Barney,
>
> We do have more sets of AlphaMax firmware for the 87A in stock, it is available on our web site:
>
> http://shop.rkrdesignsllc.com/REPLACEMENT-PARTS-LISTED-BY-ALPHA-PRODUCT/Alpha-87a-Parts/AlphaMax-Firmware-upgrade-for-older-87A-amplifiers
>
> 73 - Glenn AE0Q
> Alpha Amplifiers
> RKR DesignsLLC
>
>
>> On Sun, Nov 8, 2015 at 6:23 AM, scholl@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>>
>> Is there still a source for the parts/firmware to add AlphaMax to a 87A which does not have it installed? Barney K3LA
>>
>> __.'_._
>
>
> --
> Glenn and Katie
> MX, MXJ, OF,
> NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
> O-EAC, O-EJC, O-TG-E, HP-O,
>
> http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/
>
>

1689. Re: Low Output Power

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-11-11 18:16:44 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 1680 Message: 1689

Mike,

I'll take you up on that beer someday.

Of course, I only knew to check the Hi/Low switch from having had exactly the same problem - more than once!

73, Dick WC1M

1690. Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-08 23:04:24 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1690 Message: 1690

Hello Everyone,

All is good in Alphaland, but I have been trying to find out if there is a replacement rear fan. I don't have one but I just thought there was a substitute for the OEM fan (95 bucks) that will work just as good. I am thinking of running AM and don't want to hurt the amp, I believe that more air is good.

Thanks for all the help.

Brian
W8TFI

1691. Re:Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-09 17:31:40 UTC
From: k6xt
Topic: 1690 Message: 1691

Any fan will be better than no fan! I bought a factory job for my 87A
but it isn't necessary to go there. I mounted mine with a switch (uh-oh.
I drilled a mounting hole in the rear panel. Shiver me purist timbers.).
That way I can turn the noisy aux fan off when not running a high duty
cycle mode.

AC power is easy to come by as the 220VAC input connections are right
there. I don't know where, or if, 12VDC is available.

73 Art K6XT~~
Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.
ARRL LM, CW OPS, GMCC, MHDXA, NAQCC, NCDXF, SDDXC, CDXC
ARRL TA

On 12/9/2015 1:41 AM, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:
> Rear Fan installation

1692. Re:Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-10 21:26:16 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1690 Message: 1692

Art, Thank you for the reply, I thought that I could just get away with any good fan of the correct size and voltage. You have proven that it is true.

Happy Holidays and Thanks
Brian
W8TFI

1693. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 01:30:28 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 1690 Message: 1693

Brian, Art and list,
Yes, you can get away with just about any fan. That's why they call it 'amateur' radio!

But-- just FYI-- I researched the 'correct' AUX fan a few years ago, because I wanted another one for an amp I had acquired. By accident (luck) I found out that the one specified originally by Alpha (probably ETO) was the most quiet one on earth, in that class of fan. I came across a comparitive chart of the spec sheets of many fans and the factory-recommended one was significantly better (quieter) than all the others. So, ETO had done their homework, as we would expect!

The recommended fan is a Model 4580 Z, made by EBM-Papst. This is a 230VAC, 60Hz unit that draws 12W.

YMMV.

--Glenn K6NA

At 01:26 PM 12/10/2015, you wrote:
>
>
>Art,
>Thank you for the reply, I thought that I could just get away with
>any good fan of the correct size and voltage. You have proven that it is true.
>
>Happy Holidays and Thanks
>Brian
>W8TFI

1694. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 01:49:53 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1690 Message: 1694

It's still not cheap at $50:
<http://www.alliedelec.com/ebm-papst-4580z/70479006/>

On Thu, 10 Dec 2015 17:30:28 -0800, "Glenn Rattmann k6na@cts.com [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>4580 Z, made by EBM-Papst

1695. Re: Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 15:13:07 UTC
From: k6xt
Topic: 1690 Message: 1695

Mine came straight from Alpha. Perhaps the fan itself is quiet but the airstream most definitely is not. Adding 100CFM to the airflow does wonders for temperature. As to the increase in noise I've never cared much because the fan is only used for RTTY contesting. The airflow is quite noisy.

Had it to do over again I'd probably go with a 60CFM Whisperfan.

73 Art K6XT~~
Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.
ARRL LM, CW OPS, GMCC, MHDXA, NAQCC, NCDXF, SDDXC, CDXC
ARRL TA

On 12/11/2015 1:43 AM, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:
> There are 3 messages in this issue.
>
> Topics in this digest:
>
> 1a. Rear Fan installation
> From: w8tfi
> 1b. Re: Rear Fan installation
> From: Glenn Rattmann
> 1c. Re: Rear Fan installation
> From: Larry Dighera
>
>
> Messages
> _____
> 1a. Rear Fan installation
> Posted by: w8tfi@... w8tfi
> Date: Thu Dec 10, 2015 1:26 pm ((PST))
>
> Art, Thank you for the reply, I thought that I could just get away with any good fan of the correct size and voltage. You have proven that it is true.
>
>
> Happy Holidays and Thanks
> Brian
> W8TFI
>
>
>
>
> Messages in this topic (5)
> _____
> 1b. Re: Rear Fan installation

> Posted by: "Glenn Rattmann" k6na@... aka.k6na
> Date: Thu Dec 10, 2015 5:30 pm ((PST))
>
> Brian, Art and list,
> Yes, you can get away with just about any fan. That's why they call
> it 'amateur' radio!
>
> But-- just FYI-- I researched the 'correct' AUX fan a few years ago,
> because I wanted another one for an amp I had acquired. By accident
> (luck) I found out that the one specified originally by Alpha
> (probably ETO) was the most quiet one on earth, in that class of
> fan. I came across a comparitive chart of the spec sheets of many
> fans and the factory-recommended one was significantly better
> (quieter) than all the others. So, ETO had done their homework, as
> we would expect!
>
> The recommended fan is a Model 4580 Z, made by EBM-Papst. This is a
> 230VAC, 60Hz unit that draws 12W.
>
> YMMV.
>
> --Glenn K6NA
>
> At 01:26 PM 12/10/2015, you wrote:
>>
>> Art,
>> Thank you for the reply, I thought that I could just get away with
>> any good fan of the correct size and voltage. You have proven that it is true.
>>
>> Happy Holidays and Thanks
>> Brian
>> W8TFI
>
>
>
> Messages in this topic (5)
> _____
> 1c. Re: Rear Fan installation
> Posted by: "Larry Dighera" larry@... kj6yvt
> Date: Thu Dec 10, 2015 5:49 pm ((PST))
>
>
>
> It's still not cheap at $50:
> <http://www.alliedelec.com/ebm-papst-4580z/70479006/>
>
>
>
> On Thu, 10 Dec 2015 17:30:28 -0800, "Glenn Rattmann k6na@... [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>> 4580 Z, made by EBM-Papst
>
>
>
>
> Messages in this topic (5)
>
>
>
>
>
> ---
> Yahoo Groups Links
>
>
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> ---
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>

1696. Re: [Alpha87a] Re:Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 19:44:40 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1690 Message: 1696

I take a slightly different approach

I did this with a 91b that our club uses RTTY contesting. I looked up the CFM rating. Bought a cheaper fan that runs on 110 volts and a line cord. Under normal work we run it without the second fan running. For RTTY contesting we plug the second fan into 110. Simple - Easy - Works.

BTW I LOVE my 87a

vy73
Bob WC3O

On Thu, Dec 10, 2015 at 8:49 PM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
>
>
> It's still not cheap at $50:
> <http://www.alliedelec.com/ebm-papst-4580z/70479006/>
>
> On Thu, 10 Dec 2015 17:30:28 -0800, "Glenn Rattmann k6na@...
> [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >4580 Z, made by EBM-Papst
>
>

--
radiofreebob@...
www.skyviewradio.net

1697. Re: Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 22:58:30 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1690 Message: 1697

Thank you all for the information,
I will look in to it and I think that it isn't that bad compared to having to replace something that got to HOT in the AMP.
I do have another question: do you still have to remove the transformer or is there a work around.

Happy Holidays to all
73,
Brian Johnston

USAF MARS, State Emergency Coordinator
W8TFI / AFA5TC / AFE5MI

1698. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Rear Fan installation

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2015-12-11 23:04:12 UTC
From: Mark N2QT
Topic: 1690 Message: 1698

Well I just mounted a handy DC fan on the outside of the case, put a screen on it to keep fingers and cables out of it. I run it when I use the amp for a rtty pileup. Not elegant, but easy

Mark. N2QT

> On Dec 11, 2015, at 5:58 PM, w8tfi@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Thank you all for the information,
> I will look in to it and I think that it isn't that bad compared to having to replace something that got to HOT in the AMP.
> I do have another question: do you still have to remove the transformer or is there a work around.
>
> Happy Holidays to all
> 73,
> Brian Johnston
>
> USAF MARS, State Emergency Coordinator
> W8TFI / AFA5TC / AFE5MI
>

1699. Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 03:41:16 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1699

Hello Everyone.

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Just found out for some reason my 87a will not tune to the 12 an 10 meter bands, it did when I bought it but now it seems to have LOST it's MIND or I have, Well I know the amp is no longer being made and I don't know who to call to get the unlock information for the amp. So if someone can guide me in the right direction I would appreciate it, I have no problem showing I have my ticket. also I have been working on a way to use an Arduino to act like the remote antenna switch for a lot less than what it would cost to buy one that works with the alpha 87a commands, so as soon as I have it all figured out I will share it.

Thank for any help you can give.

73
Brian
W8TFI

1700. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 05:08:15 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1699 Message: 1700

Hi Brian,

You need the 4 digit code sequence for unlocking 24 MHz band. I don’t know the code sequence maybe others can chime in with the correct code .. then use these instructions:

,

1. Turn on the amplifier; wait until time delay completes.

2. Select - BAND 1.8 MHz, SEGMENT 1 (far left). Note the green LEDS in

the

push-button will illuminate.

3. When time delay completes switch amplifier to STBY.

4. Simultaneously depress both DEFAULT and ENTER. If done correctly, the green LEDs in the BAND and SEGMENT buttons will go out. If one LED is blinking, simultaneously depress both DEFAULT and ENTER again. If the LEDs do not go out, it will be necessary to turn off the amplifier then turn it back on, waiting for time delay to complete and repeating the above steps.

The code sequence for your amplifier is ____-_____-_____-_____.

The nine BAND buttons are designated 1.8, 3.5, 7, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, and 28. The 1.8 button is "1", 3.5 is "2", 7 is "3", and so on. Depress the first code sequence button firmly; the LED below the button will start blinking when the code number has been read. If the LED does not blink, depress the button again. Depress the second button; note the blinking LED. Continue with the third and fourth in order. When all four digits are entered the amplifier automatically unlocks and switches to 28 MHz, you may operate on this band or select another. Once unlocked your amplifier will remain so. If you wish to re-lock out the ten and twelve meter coverage repeat the code entry sequence. You may unlock the coverage again at any time.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2016 10:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Hello Everyone.

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Just found out for some reason my 87a will not tune to the 12 an 10 meter bands, it did when I bought it but now it seems to have LOST it's MIND or I have, Well I know the amp is no longer being made and I don't know who to call to get

the unlock information for the amp. So if someone can guide me in the right direction I would appreciate it, I have no problem showing I have my ticket. also I have been working on a way to use an Arduino to act like the remote antenna switch for a lot less than what it would cost to buy one that works with the alpha 87a commands, so as soon as I have it all figured out I will share it.

Thank for any help you can give.

73
Brian
W8TFI

1701. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 05:16:51 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1701

Jerry,

Thank you, you have given me hope that I can find the answer, because I don't know what happened
It may have been my fault when I was playing around with Alpha remote, I am trying to build an Digital Antenna Switch just like the one Alpha sold for the Amp. and I have it almost figured out.

Again a big Thanks for you help.
Brian
W8TFI

1702. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 06:04:13 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1699 Message: 1702

Hi Brian,

Alpha [RFconcepts.com, which is still current owner] offered to continue to give support for the 87A. You should be able to ask Alpha for the code..

Yours sincerely ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 6:17 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Jerry,

Thank you, you have given me hope that I can find the answer, because I don't know what happened
It may have been my fault when I was playing around with Alpha remote, I am trying to build an Digital Antenna Switch just like the one Alpha sold for the Amp. and I have it almost figured out.

Again a big Thanks for you help.
Brian
W8TFI

1703. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 06:10:04 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1703

Jeff,
Thank you for the reply, I did send them an Email, but I thought that I would ask you guy that still own one. and Jerry I think I might not understand your directions because I tried what you suggested and the Band and Segment LED's didn't go out, I kind of thought it might be my Serial Number on the amp., so I was going to give that a try.

Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1704. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 06:32:21 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1699 Message: 1704

Brian,

If you have a copy of the manual, page 45 describes the command to unlock 24-30 MHz. The command is LOCK # .

This would be executed while connected with a serial connection from a PC to the amplifier (an appropriate USB to serial cable will work). You would communicate to the amp using a terminal program such as Teraterm.

I don’t see the four digit code or any mention of being able to unlock 24-30 MHz from the front panel but that doesn’t mean it’s not possible.

--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Jeff,
Thank you for the reply, I did send them an Email, but I thought that I would ask you guy that still own one. and Jerry I think I might not understand your directions because I tried what you suggested and the Band and Segment LED's didn't go out, I kind of thought it might be my Serial Number on the amp., so I was going to give that a try.

Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1705. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 06:40:45 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1705

Dennis,
Thanks for the reply, and you are right but it also says "With unit in proper configuration, the unit can unlock 24-30 MHz bands with this command" and that's another question, what does that mean?

73
Brian
W8TFI

1706. Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 14:27:51 UTC
From: dl8le@...
Topic: 1706 Message: 1706

Hello,

I have a fault 17 problem and are unable to finde the possible cause ... following are the symptoms:

1. TRX at 10 W, 14150 khz
2. Amplifier PTT switched on, STB/OP-Switch in OP-Position
3. Band LED 14, segment LED #2 (band and segment LED's change according to the TRX frequency change)
4. Keying the TRX leads to fault 17 indication, IP LED shows red colour
5. No vsible or audible arcing sign on any part

I was afraid that the PIN diodes have a problem, but both diodes show -26 / - 27 V with RF in from the TRX, and have +33 / - 100 V with no RF from the TRX. So it looks as if the diodes are still switching as they should.

Is there anybody who could support here?

Thanks for your advice in advance.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

1707. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 19:11:19 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1699 Message: 1707

Yes but you need the value of “#” for the LOCK # command. The text I provided came from the former Alpha owner website where they had pages called “Ask the ham”. These were from Alpha tech support to provide insight into common problems like fault codes etc. I searched the new website and do not see these helpful tips anymore.

I am not sure if the 4 digit code is decimal or more likely hexadecimal. I hope I am wrong but I figure it is not the same for all Alpha 87A’s as that could have been easily shared so my guess it must be linked to the serial number which is in the memory.

My two Alpha 87a’s are all unlocked but it would be nice to understand for posterity

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 1:32 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Brian,

If you have a copy of the manual, page 45 describes the command to unlock 24-30 MHz. The command is LOCK # .

This would be executed while connected with a serial connection from a PC to the amplifier (an appropriate USB to serial cable will work). You would communicate to the amp using a terminal program such as Teraterm.

I don’t see the four digit code or any mention of being able to unlock 24-30 MHz from the front panel but that doesn’t mean it’s not possible.

--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Jeff,
Thank you for the reply, I did send them an Email, but I thought that I would ask you guy that still own one. and Jerry I think I might not understand your directions because I tried what you suggested and the Band and Segment LED's didn't go out, I kind of thought it might be my Serial Number on the amp., so I was going to give that a try.

Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian

W8TFI

1708. 150104. RF Concepts promise to reapir the *&A for 10 years. Alpha FW: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 21:06:27 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1708 Message: 1708
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Just so 87A owners hold a copy RF Concepts LLC promised to their customers to repair 87A's for another 10 years as recorded below.

Alpha responded to the request to respect the good will of their customers.

The Current company RKR Designs LLC brought RF Concepts LLC and took their goodwill and the obligations of their good will.

The above is why Alpha = RKR Designs LLC should be bale to supply you the code to unlock your upper banads.

YS

ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Cyrus Turner
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 5:56 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

RF Concepts, LLC
634 South Sunset St.
Longmont, CO 80501

Alpha will repair any amplifier for 10 years from the date of manufacturer.

Schematics are available, and there are people around the world that have worked on Alpha Amplifiers. If you have a inoperable Alpha Amplifier which is not listed below, please contact us via the "contact us" section of the website and we will give you a current list of people we know of that are capable of repairing your amplifier.

We are looking for capable technicians worldwide to participate in our Factory Warranty program. If you are a qualified technician, we can add you to our list of people that repair legacy Alpha Amplifiers.

LIST of Amps that RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers will repair, in or out of warranty:

Alpha 9500 Autotune Amplifier
Alpha 9510 Commercial Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 8410 160 - 10 Meter Amplifier
Alpha 8406 6 Meter Amplifier
Alpha 87A Autotuner Amplifier
Alpha 45xx Wattmeter family
Alpha 2100 Dummy Load

Alpha 2000 Dummy Load
Plus any Alpha amplifier manufactured in the last 10 years.

Customers MUST call for a Return Authorization number and shipping instructions before sending amplifiers for repair. Tech time will be charged on an hourly basis in 15 minute increments at a rate of $160/hour. A minimum of $185 (1 hour Tech time, $25 Service Charge) plus return shipping will be charged to all non-warranted and voided warranty work. If we think the amplifier will cost more than $500 to repair, we will call you for authorization before starting work and give you an estimate. You will have to approve the estimate before work starts on your amplifier.

IMPORTANT - Before shipping any amplifier for repair, the transformer MUST be removed from the amplifier.

DO NOT remove the AC plug. We've found that some of the issues are how the plug was installed.

Do not ship the transformer or the AC connector to our facility.

Shipping charges to and from our facility are the responsibility of the customer. Our warranty does not cover shipping charges. The customer is responsible for shipping to and from our factory.

The only deviation from this rule is if something goes wrong with an amplifier within the first 30 days of ownership. If this happens, we will pay the shipping charges FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR SHACK, but its your responsibility to get the amplifier to us.

E-mail is not flawless and occasionally we cannot get a reply back to our customers.

Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then please call us at 303-473-9232.

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs> www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repair

==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========
http://mail.yimg.com/zz/nq/options/img/14.gif

From: "dj2001x@..." <dj2001x@...t>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 8:35 AM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a Modification of our thinking. Suggest Alpha think more about how they treat genuine customers who did buy Alpha promises and spent a lot on money on the promises

As I read and interpret it, Alpha (RF Concepts) stated they would include the 87A as it was listed along with the 9500 for repairs AND any other amp that is less than 10 years old. They didn't say anything about the 87A having to be less than 10 years old.

Dale, k9vuj

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yes but you need the value of “#” for the LOCK # command. The text I provided came from the former Alpha owner website where they had pages called “Ask the ham”. These were from Alpha tech support to provide insight into common problems like fault codes etc. I searched the new website and do not see these helpful tips anymore.

I am not sure if the 4 digit code is decimal or more likely hexadecimal. I hope I am wrong but I figure it is not the same for all Alpha 87A’s as that could have been easily shared so my guess it must be linked to the serial number which is in the memory.

My two Alpha 87a’s are all unlocked but it would be nice to understand for posterity

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 1:32 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Brian,

If you have a copy of the manual, page 45 describes the command to unlock 24-30 MHz. The command is LOCK # .

This would be executed while connected with a serial connection from a PC to the amplifier (an appropriate USB to serial cable will work). You would communicate to the amp using a terminal program such as Teraterm.

I don’t see the four digit code or any mention of being able to unlock 24-30 MHz from the front panel but that doesn’t mean it’s not possible.

--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Jeff,
Thank you for the reply, I did send them an Email, but I thought that I would ask you guy that still own one. and Jerry I think I might not understand your directions because I tried what you suggested and the Band and Segment LED's didn't go out, I kind of thought it might be my Serial Number on the amp., so I was going to give that a try.

Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
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Brian
W8TFI

1709. 150104. RF Concepts promise to rerair the 87A for 10 years. Alpha FW: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 21:08:41 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1709 Message: 1709
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

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Please include your phone number and/or address in your e-mail in case we have such a problem. We will normally send a response to you within a couple of working days. If you have not heard from us after two days then please call us at 303-473-9232.

<http://www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repairs> www.rfconcepts.com/FAQ/Repair

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73 Jerry

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From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 1:32 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Brian,

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This would be executed while connected with a serial connection from a PC to the amplifier (an appropriate USB to serial cable will work). You would communicate to the amp using a terminal program such as Teraterm.

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--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Jeff,
Thank you for the reply, I did send them an Email, but I thought that I would ask you guy that still own one. and Jerry I think I might not understand your directions because I tried what you suggested and the Band and Segment LED's didn't go out, I kind of thought it might be my Serial Number on the amp., so I was going to give that a try.

Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1710. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 21:29:52 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1710

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /_ask the ham.zip
Uploaded by : jeff_king169 <jking2603@...>
Description : To ensure a record remains available to 87A owners. All the 87A fault finding and repair advice from RF Concepts ask the ham website which has now disappeared on the RKR Designs LLC website. To use: Unzip file and open each posting in your web browser. from ZL4AI

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/_ask%20the%20ham.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

jeff_king169 <jking2603@...>

1711. Re: New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 21:41:30 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1710 Message: 1711

Jeff,

That's great information, but and you knew there was going to be a but in there, how do I find my code for my Amp.

73
Brian
W8TFI

1712. Re: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-03 23:35:10 UTC
From: Carl
Topic: 1699 Message: 1712

The code is decimal. Mine was "1959". I believe each amp has a unique code. Hopefully the factory has a record based on the serial number.

Carl, WA2ETU

-----Original Message-----
From: 'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 2:11 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yes but you need the value of “#” for the LOCK # command. The text I provided came from the former Alpha owner website where they had pages called “Ask the ham”. These were from Alpha tech support to provide insight into common problems like fault codes etc. I searched the new website and do not see these helpful tips anymore.

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Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

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Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1713. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 01:14:51 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1699 Message: 1713

Carl,

Thank you. Is “1959” any part of your serial #?

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 6:35 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

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Sent: Saturday, January 2, 2016 10:10 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

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W8TFI

1714. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 02:50:16 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1714

Thank everyone for your help, I received an Email from RKR Designs with the information I needed, I just happy I didn't have to wait until next week, I will not be able to try it until I get home from work(work midnights) but I am just as happy to wait until then.

73
Brian
W8TFI

1715. Re: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 02:54:38 UTC
From: Carl
Topic: 1699 Message: 1715

No. My serial number is 8704111457

-----Original Message-----
From: 'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 8:14 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Carl,

Thank you. Is “1959” any part of your serial #?

73 Jerry

K1JOS

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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Jiff and Jerry thank you for the help.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1716. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 04:42:11 UTC
From: Jim Walker
Topic: 1699 Message: 1716

So what did RKR say? What was the solution?

Jim

KB0X

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 8:50 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

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Brian

W8TFI

1717. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 18:10:07 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1717

Jim,
It was that it can be done with Hypreterminal, no serial number involved. send them an Email and they will send you the instructions, they even sent it to me on a Sunday.

73
Brian
W8TFI

1718. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 21:20:13 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1706 Message: 1718

Check the L1 on T/R board, maybe it is arcing.

73s Ted S52X

2016-01-03 15:27 GMT+01:00 dl8le@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>:

>
>
> Hello,
>
> I have a fault 17 problem and are unable to finde the possible cause ...
> following are the symptoms:
>
> 1. TRX at 10 W, 14150 khz
> 2. Amplifier PTT switched on, STB/OP-Switch in OP-Position
> 3. Band LED 14, segment LED #2 (band and segment LED's change according to
> the TRX frequency change)
> 4. Keying the TRX leads to fault 17 indication, IP LED shows red colour
> 5. No vsible or audible arcing sign on any part
>
> I was afraid that the PIN diodes have a problem, but both diodes show -26
> / - 27 V with RF in from the TRX, and have +33 / - 100 V with no RF from
> the TRX. So it looks as if the diodes are still switching as they should.
>
> Is there anybody who could support here?
>
> Thanks for your advice in advance.
>
> 73
>
> Juergen, DL8LE
>
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1719. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-04 21:34:20 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1706 Message: 1719

Here is some Fault 17 advice from Alpha:

Alpha 87A Fault 17 and GPIO test

published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:03

Forums:

* Alpha 87A Entries <http://www.asktheham.com/forum/8>

The Fault 17 is a TUNE, or GAIN, fault. If it is happening on all bands, it is possibly because of a failed diode (1N5711) in one of the wattmeters. There are Input and Output wattmeters.

Here are some tests.

1) Connect PC to serial port with a modem program communicating with the amplifier.

2) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

3) On the PC, type EXT ON.

4) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

73 Jerry

K1JOS

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 4:20 PM
To: alpha87a
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17

Check the L1 on T/R board, maybe it is arcing.

73s Ted S52X

2016-01-03 15:27 GMT+01:00 dl8le@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>:

Hello,

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1. TRX at 10 W, 14150 khz
2. Amplifier PTT switched on, STB/OP-Switch in OP-Position

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Is there anybody who could support here?

Thanks for your advice in advance.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

--

Tadej Arcon, S52X

1720. RE: [Alpha87a] Completely beside myself

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-05 01:29:55 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1699 Message: 1720

Well, what was your code? 1959 like someone posted earlier? So is it the same foe all 87As?

Or was your code it different?

Let us know, post it here, so it will be available for others needing it in the future. The future of Alpha does not look bright; I'm sure those of us who still own 87As, or those who may own one in the future, will appreciate the ability to find it via a search sometime in the future if it is ever needed.....

Eric
K2CB

1721. Re: Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-05 10:31:30 UTC
From: Uberti45ss@...
Topic: 1706 Message: 1721

I was also getting the fault 17. It didn't matter what band it was on. It still pulled a 17 fault. Half the time it would not automatically change the band when I keyed it up on another band. I pulled my amp out to clean off the dust from the top of it. I left it pulled out about six inches or so and turned it on. Guess what, it works like a new amp... I haven't pushed it back yet because I wanted to use it for a while. There's a lot of cabling and electrical hookups behind the all the radio gear. There are 2 12 hookup power strips back there plus 4 antenna cables. I think RF might be the problem. Every thing is well grounded from several ground rods right out side my basement window. Will have to play around with everything to see just what is going on,,,

73

Fred (W8FLC)

1722. Re: Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-05 17:13:39 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 1706 Message: 1722

Check the input band switch (accessible via the small cover on the bottom of the amp.)

1723. Alpha 87A 10m / 12m Unlock via Hyperterminal

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-05 17:23:40 UTC
From: Glenn AE0Q
Topic: 1723 Message: 1723

Alpha 87A 10m Unlock via Hyperterminal

Instructions to unlock Alpha 87A on 10/12m via serial port:

Connect to serial port using Hyperterminal, amp plugged in but turned off.
Type commands below:

EXT ON
W B717 00

Then unplug amp from AC power, wait a minute, plug back in.

DO NOT make any mistakes typing, you are writing directly to the
microprocessor code! Writing to the wrong address will be fatal.

The 87A microprocessor reloads the operating program every time the amp is
plugged in. This can cure some strange operating problems. The amp should
be unplugged from AC power when not in use.

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha Amplifiers
RKR DesignsLLC

On Mon, Jan 4, 2016 at 6:29 PM, k2cb@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

> Well, what was your code? 1959 like someone posted earlier? So is it the
> same foe all 87As?
>
> Or was your code it different?
>
> Let us know, post it here, so it will be available for others needing it
> in the future. The future of Alpha does not look bright; I'm sure those of
> us who still own 87As, or those who may own one in the future, will
> appreciate the ability to find it via a search sometime in the future if it
> is ever needed.....
>
> Eric
>
> K2CB
>

--
Glenn and Katie
MX, MXJ, OF,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-ECC, O-EAC, O-EJC, O-TG-E, HP-O,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

1724. Re: Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-06 10:51:31 UTC
From: dl8le@...
Topic: 1706 Message: 1724

Thanks to everybody for the advice. As of today the amp is working in a perfect way again, but without any hardware repair (after having one fault 17 showing up again and then switching between STBY and OP again all LED's were lit for a very short time and after that the amp started as if nothing has happened before). Let's see what will happen. I will keep the community informed.

73

Juergen, DL8LE

1725. Re: Alpha 87A 10m / 12m Unlock via Hyperterminal

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-07 06:00:30 UTC
From: K2CB
Topic: 1723 Message: 1725

Thank you for posting the procedure, Glenn. I will be sure to add this valuable info to my repository of Alpha amp notes.

Eric
K2CB

1726. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87A 10m / 12m Unlock via Hyperterminal

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-07 07:18:25 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1723 Message: 1726

Some time ago I had also several problems (amp starting for itself, not responding to ON/OFF - blocked) and Glenn's help was crucial!
Thanks Glenn, anyway my 87A is now retired but ready to fire. Time to time I suppose we will have to 'clean' the microprocessor.
Had it connected to Hyperterminal and applied the following instructions:

Please unplug the 87A for 2 minutes and then plug it back in to the 240v. This will reset the microprocessor and can sometimes correct erratic operation (possibly caused by stray RF), although it will NOT clear hard faults or remove them from the fault log.

The 87A should 'talk' to the PC anytime it is plugged into mains power, even when it is turned off. This is the best troubleshooting tool that we have.

Below are some notes about the 87A fault protection and instructions for clearing the fault log.

IMPORTANT !!!!!

Please remember that when the 87A gets a hard fault and then the power is turned back on, it will report the fault for 30 seconds and then clear automatically. You must not turn off the power before the fault clears (about 30 seconds), or it will log another hard fault
the next time the power is turned on.
Also remember that six of the SAME hard fault shutdowns over ANY period of time (with no other kind of Hard fault) will then put the 87A in Fault 99 which locks it up. This function was put in the amplifier to prevent any further damage if operation was attempted after a failure had occurred.
If you keep turning off the power before a hard fault has cleared, and this causes 6 of the same hard faults to be entered in the fault log, the 87A will then go into Fault 99 and will not turn on.
Also, if the 87A is turned on 6 times when it keeps shutting down immediately because of a hard fault, it will go into Fault 99.

Here are two sets of instructions, one for setting up Hyperterm that is built into many versions of Windows for the communications, and the second set is for clearing the Fault 99.

To find out what the status of the amplifier is, you need to use a modem communications program like RealTerm or HyperTerminal. It is usually located in the ACCESSORIES program group.
Hyperterminal can be downloaded from the RF Concepts web site DOWNLOADS page.

Download RealTerm from http://realterm.sourceforge.net/ .

Install RealTerm and it will open a window for a new connection. Select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE.

Click on HYPERTRM.EXE and it will open a window for a new connection. Give it a name, and in the next window select the "Connect Using: Direct to COMx" pulldown menu; select the Com port you will use. If the COM port you select is available it will open another box called "COMx Properties". Going down the list, select Bps-4800, Data bits-8, Parity-NONE, Stop bits-1, Flow control-NONE. Click OK to close the window. Now pull down the FILE menu and click PROPERTIES. Click the SETTING tab and then click ASCII SETUP at the bottom of the window. Click the box for "Echo typed characters locally" (it could have a check in the box). Click OK to close both windows.

Plug in the amp (power off) and it should be communicating with the computer. Type VER and press the Enter key. The 87A should respond with the firmware version number.

****
ATTENTION ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!
****
If you see garble (or nothing) you will need to remove pin 22 of the 25-pin end of the cable (the 87A end). It is used to set the baudrate of the amplifier. Page 19 of the 87A manual has a complete explanation of the communications connections.
****

When it is communicating OK, type SF and HF to display the Soft Fault and Hard Fault logs (press Enter key after each command). Save the result of those commands.

A list of more commands is on pages 20 and 21 of the 87A manual (pages 40 and 41 in 87A Manual Rev 1.0)

Procedure to clear fault "99"

To clear a fault "99" on an Alpha 87A amplifier with a terminal attached. Type in the following commands and enter them for each new line.

NOTE!!! To eliminate typing errors you can cut and past them in one block into the Hyperterm connect window and hit enter to send the entire list to the 87A.

```
EXT ON
W B71A FF
W B71B FF
W B71C FF
W B71D FF
W B71E FF
```

```
W B71F FF
W B720 FF
W B721 FF
W B724 FF
W B725 FF
W B726 FF
W B727 FF
W B728 FF
W B729 FF
W B72A FF
W B72B FF
W B72C 0C
W B72D B5
W B7D4 CB
W B7D5 20
W B7D6 DA
W B7D7 98
W B7E0 FF
W B7E1 FF
W B7E2 FF
W B7E3 FF
W B7E4 FF
W B7E5 FF
W B7E6 FF
W B7E7 FF
HF
SF
```

When you type HF and SF they should show all 00.

Unplug the 87A from the mains power for 30 seconds. This resets the microprocessor. The amplifier is now ready for normal use.

On 7 January 2016 at 06:00, K2CB k2cb@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Thank you for posting the procedure, Glenn. I will be sure to add this
> valuable info to my repository of Alpha amp notes.
>
> Eric
> K2CB
>
>
>

1727. Alpha 87A for sale

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-07 15:32:54 UTC
From: honeyway@...
Topic: 1727 Message: 1727

I am selling my Alpha 87A. It is in immaculate condition inside and out and has always been covered when not in use. It has run 653 metered hours from new with each use logged in a spreadsheet and has been supplied via a dedicated and heavily filtered mains spur. The amplifier has been fitted from new with the optional ancillary fan with its own air filter. The AlphaMax ICs were factory-fitted from new and the AlphaRemote facility works well.

The amplifier is in perfect working order and has only ever been carefully operated at the UK legal limit into a TH7DXX antenna.

A spare pair of boxed unused 3CX800A valves is also available.

I’m offering it here before it goes on eBay. Please contact me if you are interested.

73 John

GW4FRX

1728. Alpha 87A Serial Communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-28 21:59:09 UTC
From: randyholl@...
Topic: 1728 Message: 1728

I am a long time user of the 87A, but just got a new FLEX 6500 and am trying to connect to the Alpha 87A to control the band changes. However, I cannot get the 87A serial port to respond. The 87A is plugged in but not turned on as per the manual (turning it on makes no difference in the outcome, as I tried that). I have a DB-25 to DB-9 cable installed to a good quality USB to serial converter that runs to a USB port on my Windows 10 computer. I could not get the 87A to communicate with the DDUTIL program I use with the FLEX, so I then tried to get it to communicate with the Alpha Remote software with no luck. Finally, I tried simply establishing a connection using a hyper-terminal program, but again, I do not get a response from the 87A. The hyper-terminal program says that it is connected, but there is no reply to commands issued to the 87A.

There is advice in the 87A manual to pull pin 22 from the cable if you get garbage as a response, but I am getting no response at all, which leads me to suspect that there is a different issue. Any advice on what to try to get the connection working would be appreciated. Thanks.

Randy, K0FA

1729. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Serial Communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-29 06:24:25 UTC
From: Peter Vee
Topic: 1728 Message: 1729

You may need a null cable[which swaps wires intended for pins 2 and 3]. Best is you use naked wires, three of them, put ground into pin 5 (of 9 pin connector), and put either of the others in pins 2 and 3. If hyperterminal works fine good else else swap wires 2 and 3.

From: "randyholl@mchsi.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:59 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Serial Communications

I am a long time user of the 87A, but just got a new FLEX 6500 and am trying to connect to the Alpha 87A to control the band changes. However, I cannot get the 87A serial port to respond. The 87A is plugged in but not turned on as per the manual (turning it on makes no difference in the outcome, as I tried that). I have a DB-25 to DB-9 cable installed to a good quality USB to serial converter that runs to a USB port on my Windows 10 computer. I could not get the 87A to communicate with the DDUTIL program I use with the FLEX, so I then tried to get it to communicate with the Alpha Remote software with no luck. Finally, I tried simply establishing a connection using a hyper-terminal program, but again, I do not get a response from the 87A. The hyper-terminal program says that it is connected, but there is no reply to commands issued to the 87A.
There is advice in the 87A manual to pull pin 22 from the cable if you get garbage as a response, but I am getting no response at all, which leads me to suspect that there is a different issue. Any advice on what to try to get the connection working would be appreciated. Thanks.
Randy, K0FA

1730. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A Serial Communications

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-01-29 13:06:46 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1728 Message: 1730

Have you set the baud rate of the computer port to match that of the 87A with Windows Device Manager?

On 28 Jan 2016 13:59:09 -0800, "randyholl@mchsi.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I am a long time user of the 87A, but just got a new FLEX 6500 and am trying to connect to the Alpha 87A to control the band changes. However, I cannot get the 87A serial port to respond. The 87A is plugged in but not turned on as per the manual (turning it on makes no difference in the outcome, as I tried that). I have a DB-25 to DB-9 cable installed to a good quality USB to serial converter that runs to a USB port on my Windows 10 computer. I could not get the 87A to communicate with the DDUTIL program I use with the FLEX, so I then tried to get it to communicate with the Alpha Remote software with no luck. Finally, I tried simply establishing a connection using a hyper-terminal program, but again, I do not get a response from the 87A. The hyper-terminal program says that it is connected, but there is no reply to commands issued to the 87A.
>
>
> There is advice in the 87A manual to pull pin 22 from the cable if you get garbage as a response, but I am getting no response at all, which leads me to suspect that there is a different issue. Any advice on what to try to get the connection working would be appreciated. Thanks.
>
>
> Randy, K0FA

1731. Alpha tuning below 6MHZ

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-07 01:04:51 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1731 Message: 1731

Hello everyone,
Another question for the great minds in this group. has anyone found a way to get the Alpha 87A to tune out of band below 4 MHZ. I know that in the Manual it states that the amp will do MARS from 6 MHZ up but I was wondering if anyone knows of a way or has got the amp to tune below that.

Thanks for all the help.
Brian
W8TFI

1732. how to understand ALC

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-18 23:38:38 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1732 Message: 1732

Hello Everyone,
I am looking for information on how ALC works, the reason is, that if I understand it the way it works, is that it will allow the amp to control my radio's output and not allow my radio to over drive the amp. If this is correct and I need to know how to setup and use it on my amp. the reason I ask this question is that I have been turning down the drive power on my radio to drive my amp. Now there has beed times that I don't run my amp and I turn up the drive to run 100 Watts, well as you can guess I have forgot to turn it back down to run the amp.

Thank you for you help.

Brian
W8TFI

1733. MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-24 22:27:20 UTC
From: sambaine28@...
Topic: 1733 Message: 1733

HELLO ANY ONE:

I ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED THE WRONG NUMBER IN THE 15 M. POSITION.

COULD SOME ONE INTERROGATE THE 15 M. POSITION AND LET ME KNOW WHAT
THE FIRST NUMBERS OF THE STRING IS?

THE PROCESS IS.....

EXT ON (turns on factory mode)
DM B7C1 (gives whole address string. what i need are the first numbers.)
W B7C1 (writes to that address)

CAN ANY ONE HELP ME ?

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS...

w4kum@juno.com

THANKS AHEAD OF TIME.

SAM

W4KUM

1734. Re: [Alpha87a] MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-25 00:29:05 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1733 Message: 1734

Sam;
I'm interested what you were trying to accomplish by writing in the 15M position?
I have a 87A and never thought of addressing any of the memories.
Thanks
George W2YJ

On 2/24/2016 5:27 PM, sambaine28@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> HELLO ANY ONE:
>
> I ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED THE WRONG NUMBER IN THE 15 M. POSITION.
>
> COULD SOME ONE INTERROGATE THE 15 M. POSITION AND LET ME KNOW WHAT
> THE FIRST NUMBERS OF THE STRING IS?
>
> THE PROCESS IS.....
>
> EXT ON (turns on factory mode)
> DM B7C1 (gives whole address string. what i need are the first numbers.)
> W B7C1 (writes to that address)
>
> CAN ANY ONE HELP ME ?
>
> MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS...
>
> w4kum@...
>
> THANKS AHEAD OF TIME.
>
> SAM
>
> W4KUM
>
>
>
>

--
George K.

1735. Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-25 06:21:52 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1733 Message: 1735

Worse case, read the value for 12 and 17m positions, take the difference, divide it in two, them add that back to the next band position, and it should get you close enough. Basically, find the half way point between the two known positions (12 and 17m via the read command). If you still have trouble, hopefully someone with an 87A connected to a PC can quickly query their amp's value.

Eric
K2CB

1736. Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-25 13:45:42 UTC
From: pmuscian@...
Topic: 1733 Message: 1736

I think the info you are seeking can be found here:

http://lea.hamradio.si/~s55o/files/manuals/Alpha%2087a/87A%20Bandswitch%20Tuning.pdf
http://lea.hamradio.si/~s55o/files/manuals/Alpha%2087a/87A%20Bandswitch%20Tuning.pdf

This link goes to a newsletter that contains an article describing how to correct Alpha 87A bandswitch faults, using 17M as the example. It contains a list of memory addresses for ALL band positions. Print it out and tuck it into your manual for future reference.

73 Paula k9ir

1737. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-02-25 14:23:22 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1733 Message: 1737

Just wondering if the 87A's memory values can be saved and re-entered
from the RS232 connection in case of a error while programming?
George W2YJ

On 2/25/2016 1:21 AM, k2cb@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Worse case, read the value for 12 and 17m positions, take the
> difference, divide it in two, them add that back to the next band
> position, and it should get you close enough. Basically, find the half
> way point between the two known positions (12 and 17m via the read
> command). If you still have trouble, hopefully someone with an 87A
> connected to a PC can quickly query their amp's value.
>
>
>
>
> Eric
>
> K2CB
>
>

--
George K.

1738. Re: [Alpha87a] MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-10 17:41:33 UTC
From: <sambaine28@...>
Topic: 1733 Message: 1738

Hi everyone:
Thanks for in the info you sent.

What i need is full print out of the hex at the following address.
(20 m) b7bf(15m) b7ci
If any one can read those out of the Alpha 87a it would sure help me.

my email address is w4um@...
Thanks ahead of time.
sam
W4KUM

On Wednesday, February 24, 2016 7:28 PM, "George goofyham@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  Sam;
I'm interested what you were trying to accomplish by writing in the 15M position?
I have a 87A and never thought of addressing any of the memories.
Thanks
George W2YJ

On 2/24/2016 5:27 PM, sambaine28@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

  HELLO ANY ONE:

I ACCIDENTALLY ENTERED THE WRONG NUMBER IN THE 15 M. POSITION.

COULD SOME ONE INTERROGATE THE 15 M. POSITION AND LET ME KNOW WHAT
THE FIRST NUMBERS OF THE STRING IS?

THE PROCESS IS.....

EXT ON (turns on factory mode)
DM B7C1 (gives whole address string. what i need are the first numbers.)
W B7C1 (writes to that address)

CAN ANY ONE HELP ME ?

MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS...

w4kum@juno.com

THANKS AHEAD OF TIME.

SAM

W4KUM

--
George K.

1739. Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-11 20:51:31 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 1733 Message: 1739

Once you get the strings from another owner and patch them in, bear in mind that they may not be exactly right for your amp. The band switch positions are calibrated at the factory and are specific to each amp. What you'll get from another owner will probably be close, but you may have to tweak the numbers to get the switch contacts to line up perfectly.

73, Dick WC1M

1740. Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-13 23:09:40 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1733 Message: 1740

```
Data taken from 87A SN 951207xx

B7C1 = 8D A3 B6 14 24 FF FF A0
```

1741. Re: MEMORY ADDRESS BANDSWITCH POSTION ALPHA 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-14 00:41:05 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1733 Message: 1741

```
ALPHA 87A
VERSION 1.00-AT
COPYRIGHT 1992, 1999
ALPHA/POWER, INC.
FACTORY MODE = ON
B7BF = 64 78 8D A3 B6 14 24 FF
B7C1 = 8D A3 B6 14 24 FF FF A0
```

1742. Frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-14 03:06:44 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1742 Message: 1742

I am in the process of repairing an 87A (1995 build date) that has an issue with the frequency counter circuit.

The first symptom was that it was not reading at all. I performed the sensitivity pot adjustment procedure. In order for the amp to sense at all, the post has to be almost all the way to the one end. However, the counter is still not functioning properly.

The counter is reading approx.. 1.24Mhz low on 20m, yet on 40m it is reading anywhere from 340-370Khz low.

The other band are also not working properly. I just haven't measured the actual error amount yet.

The error varies depending on which band segment is selected before applying RF to the input. For example, my exciter can be on 14.250Mhz every time, but if I manually place the amp on band segment 1,2,3,4 or 5 before applying RF, the measured frequency will vary 10-50Khz, even though the amp will jump to segment 1 every time, since the measures frequency is always below 14.000MHz.

The counter detector circuit looks like it consists of four 74HC cmos chips. The passive components all look fine, and the input wattmeter diodes also check fine. So I suspect that one of the four cmos chips may be at fault.

The only other possibility in the back of my mind is that maybe the eeprom has lost some bits from age.

Has anyone else experienced, repaired, such a failure mode?

Eric
K2CB

1743. Input frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-14 03:18:56 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1743 Message: 1743

I am troubleshooting a 1995 vintage 87A with a frequency counter issue. The counter is reading low on all bands.

Initially, the amp would not detect the exciter frequency whatsoever. So I performed the sensitivity adjustment procedure. The pot was originally set at approximately half way. However, now the pot needs to be at maximum in order to cause any change at all.

Now, it is measuring 1.24MHz low on 20M, and 350-370MHz low on 40m. Readings verified via the serial port.

Has anyone experienced and diagnosed/repaired a similar failure?

I suspect one of the four cmos chips on the input board counter circuit may be failing. The passive components, as well as the wattmeter diodes, all check good. Either that, or possibly the firmware eeprom has lost some bits from age. I can easily pull the eeprom, read it, and compare the checksum to an image I saved years ago, so that may be my next step tomorrow.

Eric
K2CB

1744. RE: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-14 17:16:32 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1743 Message: 1744

Hi Eric,

I am not really experienced in these matters but I like to dig in as much as possible to understand this great amp. Looking at the block diagram and schematic, I think that any problem with the 4520 counters or shift registers, would be systematic and the same proportionate error would appear across all bands. Since that is not what you described, maybe the problem is noise or instability in the FREQMON_V+ supply (see in Schematics pp 21 and 17)? I know some of the bus connectors oxidize over time and the bus voltages can get funky. I would remove and reseat the connectors carrying FREQMON_V+. I think these are under the tube deck with a white 8-pin connector in the upper right-hand corner near the edge of the opening. The other end of the frequency voltage signal to the microprocessor can be accessed with the top cover removed, on my 87A it is a long red connector that you can see at the top right-hand part of the amp just behind the front panel (there are two long red connectors together). This plugs into the control board that has the microprocessor. I hope this provides some help in tracking down the problem.

BTW, you said you have easily read the EEPROM from your 87A in the past. Could you tell me what eeprom reader/writer hardware you use for this? The parts list calls for 27256 EEPROM. Did you ever copy your 68HC11E1 u-processor? Everything on the 87A seems obtainable for repair except the PAL’s programmed for the stepper motors. Too bad there isn’t any easy way to read them.

73 Jerry

NY2KW (K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

I am troubleshooting a 1995 vintage 87A with a frequency counter issue. The counter is reading low on all bands.

Initially, the amp would not detect the exciter frequency whatsoever. So I performed the sensitivity adjustment procedure. The pot was originally set at approximately half way. However, now the pot needs to be at maximum in order to cause any change at all.

Now, it is measuring 1.24MHz low on 20M, and 350-370MHz low on 40m. Readings verified via the serial port.

Has anyone experienced and diagnosed/repaired a similar failure?

I suspect one of the four cmos chips on the input board counter circuit may be failing. The passive components, as well as the wattmeter diodes, all check good. Either that, or possibly the firmware eeprom has lost some bits from age. I can easily pull the eeprom, read it, and compare the checksum to an image I saved years ago, so that may be my next

step tomorrow.

Eric

K2CB

1745. RE: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-18 19:31:35 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1743 Message: 1745

Hi Jerry,

I cleaned up all the connections, same results.

I highly suspect the counter chips, as sensitivity dropped off as well.

I plan to replace the chips, and will report back with my findings.

Meanwhile, I was hoping someone would have chimed in with their past findings. Searching the archives, I see others have reported a similar problem in the past.

Eric
K2CB

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <jsternmd@...> wrote :

Hi Eric,
I am not really experienced in these matters but I like to dig in as much as possible to understand this great amp. Looking at the block diagram and schematic, I think that any problem with the 4520 counters or shift registers, would be systematic and the same proportionate error would appear across all bands. Since that is not what you described, maybe the problem is noise or instability in the FREQMON_V+ supply (see in Schematics pp 21 and 17)? I know some of the bus connectors oxidize over time and the bus voltages can get funky. I would remove and reseat the connectors carrying FREQMON_V+. I think these are under the tube deck with a white 8-pin connector in the upper right-hand corner near the edge of the opening. The other end of the frequency voltage signal to the microprocessor can be accessed with the top cover removed, on my 87A it is a long red connector that you can see at the top right-hand part of the amp just behind the front panel (there are two long red connectors together). This plugs into the control board that has the microprocessor. I hope this provides some help in tracking down the problem.
BTW, you said you have easily read the EEPROM from your 87A in the past. Could you tell me what eeprom reader/writer hardware you use for this? The parts list calls for 27256 EEPROM. Did you ever copy your 68HC11E1 u-processor? Everything on the 87A seems obtainable for repair except the PAL’s programmed for the stepper motors. Too bad there isn’t any easy way to read them.
73 Jerry
NY2KW (K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:19 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

I am troubleshooting a 1995 vintage 87A with a frequency counter issue. The counter is reading low on all bands.

Initially, the amp would not detect the exciter frequency whatsoever. So I performed the sensitivity adjustment procedure. The pot was originally set at approximately half way. However, now the pot needs to be at maximum in order to cause any change at all.

Now, it is measuring 1.24MHz low on 20M, and 350-370MHz low on 40m. Readings verified via the serial port.

Has anyone experienced and diagnosed/repaired a similar failure?

I suspect one of the four cmos chips on the input board counter circuit may be failing. The passive components, as well as the wattmeter diodes, all check good. Either that, or possibly the firmware eeprom has lost some bits from age. I can easily pull the eeprom, read it, and compare the checksum to an image I saved years ago, so that may be my next step tomorrow.

Eric

K2CB

1746. Re: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-18 20:07:22 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1743 Message: 1746

On 18 Mar 2016 12:31:35 -0700, "k2cb@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I was hoping someone would have chimed in with their past findings.
>Searching the archives, I see others have reported a similar problem in the past.
>

Hello Eric,

I'm sorry to hear of your difficulties, and can readily sympathize.

I have archived as much Alpha 87A troubleshooting information as I was able to find over the past few years. Searching that data, below is all I was able to find concerning frequency counter issues:

http://asktheham.com/node/58
Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment
published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:07
Forums: Alpha 87A Entries
Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment:
The pot in the bottom of the 87A is to be adjusted as follows.
1. Place the 87A on it's right side.
2. Remove the bottom cover under the tubes.
3. Place the transceiver on 28mhz and adjust the power output to 5 watts.
4. Place the amplifier in the 160 meters position.
5. Put the pot in the full clockwise position to start.
6. Key the radio and adjust the pot counter clockwise until the amplifier changes bands then stop there.
7. Replace the covers and place the amp back flat on the table.

If the amp is still having problems changing frequency than the amp needs to be repaired. The problem is most likely on the frequency counter PCB and will need additional trouble shooting.
==========

http://asktheham.com/node/57
Alpha 87A Intermittent Frequency Detect
published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:06
Forums: Alpha 87A Entries
Intermittent Frequency Detect in Alpha 87A
1) Unplug amplifier from the 220vac and take apart the plug. Make sure the screws holding the wires are tight, they sometimes get loose. When you unplug the amplifier from the power, you are also resetting the microprocessor. It has 5v whenever the amp is plugged in, even when it is turned off. Resetting the microprocessor might fix it. Plug in the amp and turn it on. Test to see if it now works OK.

2) If it is still not working correctly, you will need to unplug it from the power again. If you have bolted the big power transformer into the chassis, tip the amplifier up so that it is standing on it's right-hand side. If the transformer is not bolted to the chassis, you will need to take off the cover and remove the transformer before setting the amp on it's right side, or put in the bolts to hold in the transformer now.

3) Remove the plate on the bottom of the chassis that is under the tube deck (where the tubes plug in). When you look into the opening, there is a white 8-pin connector in the upper right-hand corner near the edge of the opening. This connector carries the frequency signal to the microprocessor. Pull the connector off and push it back on, making sure that it is on all the way. In the upper left-hand corner there is a short jumper between two circuit boards. It should go into holes in the two boards that are labeled RF FWD. Check very closely and make sure that it is in the correct holes. There is one hole labeled GND and the wire should NOT be in this hole. Near the middle of the top circuit board, to the left of the white 8-pin connector, there is a small variable resistor (potentiometer). This adjusts the sensitivity of the frequency measuring circuit. The slot in the potentiometer should be about in the middle, pointing almost straight up. Note the position of the slot, then use a small screwdriver to turn the adjustment from one end to the other a few times. The potentiometer may have dirty contacts and this will clean them. Set the adjustment back where it was when you started. Replace the metal plate and put the amplifier back to it's normal position on the table.

4) There is one more cable that you can try to reseat. It is the other end of the frequency signal to the microprocessor. With the top cover removed, it is a long red connector that you can see at the top right-hand part of the amp just behind the front panel (there are two long red connectors together). This plugs into the control board that has the microprocessor. Carefully pull the connector off and plug it back on, making sure that it is pushed on all the way.
Replace the top cover and test the amplifier again.
==========

While I realize this information fails to address your specific issue, perhaps it may be of some assistance in further diagnosis.

If all else fails, you can always contact the Alpha 87A expert, Glenn Pladsen (AE0Q) <gm5bkc@...>. He has been extremely helpful to me and many other 87A operators over the years. Glenn's most recent (Nov. 2015) post to this list contained a different e-mail address for him: <gm5bkc@...>.

Please continue to keep the list apprised of your findings and progress.

Best regards,
Larry
WB6BBB

1747. Failure and now working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-21 20:01:31 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1747 Message: 1747

This weekend during the Russian contest one of my 87As went into a peculiar fault mode. A lot of LEDs came on, some flashing, some solid. After turning it off and back on immediately fault mode and the lights again. Tried resetting it a couple of times with no luck. I left it connected to AC until today when I tried to connect a terminal to it but I had no luck with getting any info from it (like HF and SF). So I finally disconnected the AC, reconnected and now it seems to be fine except for the fact I cannot connect a terminal to it.

I made a note during the contest that the bottom row of LED (not the segment LEDs) from left to right were off, flashing, flashing, solid,off and off. I can't remember now what the segment LEDs were doing but it didn't make normal fault sense to me.

Anybody have any insight to what might be wrong?

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1748. Re: Failure and now working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-21 20:41:26 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1747 Message: 1748

Sounds like maybe the processor needed reset. That will not happen turning it off, but it will happen when unplugging it. I've seen something similar to that once.

Jim - KR9U

1749. I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-25 04:02:39 UTC
From: radiofreebob@...
Topic: 1749 Message: 1749

Hello 87a group

Was wondering if anyone has run into this issue I am having with my Alpha Power era 87a. The amp is in great shape. I bought it from a SK estate. I have owned it around 6 months and it has been working GREAT. (I was in love)

Recently I am running in to this hard fault 37, band switch control error. I have been in contact with Glen at Alpha and he has been a big help but I don’t want to wear out my welcome. Glen recommended I measure the resistance of the 36V fuse. He said sometimes they gain resistance and cause a voltage drop to the band switch motor. I measured the resistance and it was fine, but I replaced it anyway. That didn’t do it. I have rotated the band switch by hand and it seems to consistently travel to both ends without binding. I removed the ribbon cable connector for the band switch at the motor control board header and added a little DeoxIT. That didn’t fix it.

Looking back in the archives I read about re-flowing the solder (on the LV board) on the two rectifiers and large transistors. Also on the large resistor. That didn’t do it.

Trying to avoid shipping the old girl back to CO. Anyone have any ideas? (I had such a big smile on my face…)

Thanks in advance

Bob, WC3O

1750. RE: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-25 12:58:49 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1749 Message: 1750

Hi Bob,

I have not had the problem. Do you hear any motor band switch activity at all when this happens? I went over the schematic and from my basic skills it appears the tune and load motors use an optical sensor while the band switch motor has signal lines called “bandpot/bandpotv+” so I assume a pot is used to sense the angle of the motor and returns a voltage to the u-processor. Although I cannot find the pot on the schematic it has to be physically linked to the motor shaft and maybe the pot is dirty or is binding? I also looked at my notes (tidbits saved over the years) and found a comment from Tadej S52X on this fault 37-------- : “The fix was simple, just unscrew a bit the screw below the amp, which holds the band switch holder. That way the band switch can rotate easier. Turn on the amp, and see what happen.” This worked for him apparently.

Please share your findings with the group as there are fewer and fewer with knowledge to repair this amp.

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:03 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Hello 87a group

Was wondering if anyone has run into this issue I am having with my Alpha Power era 87a. The amp is in great shape. I bought it from a SK estate. I have owned it around 6 months and it has been working GREAT. (I was in love)

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Thanks in advance

Bob, WC3O

1751. RE: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-25 13:31:20 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1749 Message: 1751

Bob,

I found the block diagram and there are optical sensors for tune and load. There is no mention of a band switch pot but there are those lines in the schematic. We recently moved to new QTH (and new call sign) and I hope to unbox my 87a's this weekend. I will look inside as well.

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 8:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Hi Bob,

I have not had the problem. Do you hear any motor band switch activity at all when this happens? I went over the schematic and from my basic skills it appears the tune and load motors use an optical sensor while the band switch motor has signal lines called "bandpot/bandpotv+" so I assume a pot is used to sense the angle of the motor and returns a voltage to the u-processor. Although I cannot find the pot on the schematic it has to be physically linked to the motor shaft and maybe the pot is dirty or is binding? I also looked at my notes (tidbits saved over the years) and found a comment from Tadej S52X on this fault 37-------- : "The fix was simple, just unscrew a bit the screw below the amp, which holds the band switch holder. That way the band switch can rotate easier. Turn on the amp, and see what happen." This worked for him apparently.

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Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:03 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

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band switch by hand and it seems to consistently travel to both ends without binding. I removed the ribbon cable connector for the band switch at the motor control board header and added a little DeoxIT. That didn’t fix it.

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Thanks in advance

Bob, WC3O

1752. RE: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-25 21:47:11 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1749 Message: 1752

HI Bob & Jerry,

Glenn told me 2 years ago that it is important that there is no slack between the gears on the pot. That is the fit has to be tight almost binding. I had loosened my pot off so it was free with slight slack and then I got a fault. (Unfortunately did not record the number) Followings Glenn's advice when it was set tight again fault disappeared.

Jeff ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 1:59 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Hi Bob,

I have not had the problem. Do you hear any motor band switch activity at all when this happens? I went over the schematic and from my basic skills it appears the tune and load motors use an optical sensor while the band switch motor has signal lines called "bandpot/bandpotv+" so I assume a pot is used to sense the angle of the motor and returns a voltage to the u-processor. Although I cannot find the pot on the schematic it has to be physically linked to the motor shaft and maybe the pot is dirty or is binding? I also looked at my notes (tidbits saved over the years) and found a comment from Tadej S52X on this fault 37-------- : "The fix was simple, just unscrew a bit the screw below the amp, which holds the band switch holder. That way the band switch can rotate easier. Turn on the amp, and see what happen." This worked for him apparently.

Please share your findings with the group as there are fewer and fewer with knowledge to repair this amp.

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 12:03 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] I got those code 37 blues

Hello 87a group

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band switch by hand and it seems to consistently travel to both ends without binding. I removed the ribbon cable connector for the band switch at the motor control board header and added a little DeoxIT. That didn’t fix it.

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Trying to avoid shipping the old girl back to CO. Anyone have any ideas? (I had such a big smile on my face…)

Thanks in advance

Bob, WC3O

1753. Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-25 23:22:36 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1749 Message: 1753

Does the fault occur on all bands or just some bands? Does it happen whenever the amp re-tunes or is it intermittent?

I just helped an 87A owner with fault 37 he was getting on 160 and 80 -- only. The amp was also generating fault 11, which is a transmit PIN diode fault.

Turns out one of the padder caps that get switched in on 160 and 80 was shorted. This allowed the transmit PIN diode bias voltage to get to the output network. The unblocked DC voltage heated the bad padder cap and the plates of the Load variable cap to the point of glowing orange!

The resulting bias voltage drop probably caused the fault 11. Not sure how the fault 37 got generated, but I suspect the voltage leak screwed up the optical sensor circuits that detect the position of the band switch and tuning caps.

73, Dick WC1M

1754. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-26 03:52:24 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1749 Message: 1754

Hello all and thanks for the replies

Well, I took the cover off today and defeated the dead man switches. (I wonder why they call them dead man switches?) When I fired it up I noted the two caps cycling very quickly, then back to there desired position. The band switch moves a position or two, seems like it binds, tries a couple times, then the amp drops power.

On the front of the caps I see what looks like either a optical of Hall Effect switch with a single blade. I might assume those are limit switches? I also assume the positioning sensors are build into the stepper motors? I don't see any position sensors on either cap. I would think they are all build into the motors? I don't have a detailed schematic handy to see. The band switch shaft extends into the compartment under the tubes. I don't know where it goes to in there, but I would maybe think another switch wafer?

I had mentioned before that I can rotate the band switch through its range via the gear, but with no experience I have no idea how much tension it should require. Maybe it is tight? Not sure.

There was mention of no play in the gears. Do you mean the gears between the stepper motor output shaft and the band switch? Those are the only gears I see.

Clint Eastwood once said, a man's got to know his limitations. And don't think I am coming ANYWHERE near the HV with the lid off. An old SB-200 taught me real good about high voltage... Lesson learned.

Thanks, again
Bob WC3O

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 7:22 PM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Does the fault occur on all bands or just some bands? Does it happen
> whenever the amp re-tunes or is it intermittent?
>
> I just helped an 87A owner with fault 37 he was getting on 160 and 80 --
> only. The amp was also generating fault 11, which is a transmit PIN diode
> fault.
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> Turns out one of the padder caps that get switched in on 160 and 80 was
> shorted. This allowed the transmit PIN diode bias voltage to get to the
> output network. The unblocked DC voltage heated the bad padder cap and the

> plates of the Load variable cap to the point of glowing orange!
>
> The resulting bias voltage drop probably caused the fault 11. Not sure how
> the fault 37 got generated, but I suspect the voltage leak screwed up the
> optical sensor circuits that detect the position of the band switch and
> tuning caps.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
>

--
radiofreebob@...
www.skyviewradio.net

1755. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-26 03:57:45 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1749 Message: 1755

Correction:

I now see the band switch is driven directly by the stepper, the the gear is for the position sensor! I see what you're saying. There is a little play in there, I will try to adjust.

Thanks!
Bob

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:52 PM, Robert Bastone <radiofreebob@...>
wrote:

> Hello all and thanks for the replies
>
> Well, I took the cover off today and defeated the dead man switches. (I
> wonder why they call them dead man switches?) When I fired it up I noted
> the two caps cycling very quickly, then back to there desired position. The
> band switch moves a position or two, seems like it binds, tries a couple
> times, then the amp drops power.
>
> On the front of the caps I see what looks like either a optical of Hall
> Effect switch with a single blade. I might assume those are limit switches?
> I also assume the positioning sensors are build into the stepper motors? I
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> via the gear, but with no experience I have no idea how much tension it
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> Clint Eastwood once said, a man's got to know his limitations. And don't
> think I am coming ANYWHERE near the HV with the lid off. An old SB-200
> taught me real good about high voltage... Lesson learned.
>
> Thanks, again
> Bob WC3O
>
> On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 7:22 PM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] <
> Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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>> The resulting bias voltage drop probably caused the fault 11. Not sure
>> how the fault 37 got generated, but I suspect the voltage leak screwed up
>> the optical sensor circuits that detect the position of the band switch and
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>> 73, Dick WC1M
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> --
> radiofreebob@...
> www.skyviewradio.net
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radiofreebob@...
www.skyviewradio.net

1756. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-26 04:11:15 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1749 Message: 1756

Nope, that didn't do it...

The band switch tries to move, but I would think it is either binding or the stepper doesn't have the torque to move it due to either mechanical reasons or voltage drop. Or the position pot is on the fritz?

BTW if I don't get back quickly this is a very busy weekend for me. I'll get back to responses ASAP.

Bob

On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:57 PM, Robert Bastone <radiofreebob@...>
wrote:

> Correction:
>
> I now see the band switch is driven directly by the stepper, the the gear
> is for the position sensor! I see what you're saying. There is a little
> play in there, I will try to adjust.
>
> Thanks!
> Bob
>
> On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 11:52 PM, Robert Bastone <radiofreebob@...>
> wrote:
>
>> Hello all and thanks for the replies
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>> Well, I took the cover off today and defeated the dead man switches. (I
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>> the two caps cycling very quickly, then back to there desired position. The
>> band switch moves a position or two, seems like it binds, tries a couple
>> times, then the amp drops power.
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>> On the front of the caps I see what looks like either a optical of Hall
>> Effect switch with a single blade. I might assume those are limit switches?
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>> I had mentioned before that I can rotate the band switch through its
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>> it should require. Maybe it is tight? Not sure.

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>> There was mention of no play in the gears. Do you mean the gears between
>> the stepper motor output shaft and the band switch? Those are the only
>> gears I see.
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>> Clint Eastwood once said, a man's got to know his limitations. And don't
>> think I am coming ANYWHERE near the HV with the lid off. An old SB-200
>> taught me real good about high voltage... Lesson learned.
>>
>> Thanks, again
>> Bob WC3O
>>
>> On Fri, Mar 25, 2016 at 7:22 PM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] <
>> Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
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>>>
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>>> whenever the amp re-tunes or is it intermittent?
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>>> only. The amp was also generating fault 11, which is a transmit PIN diode
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>>> Turns out one of the padder caps that get switched in on 160 and 80 was
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>>> output network. The unblocked DC voltage heated the bad padder cap and the
>>> plates of the Load variable cap to the point of glowing orange!
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>>> The resulting bias voltage drop probably caused the fault 11. Not sure
>>> how the fault 37 got generated, but I suspect the voltage leak screwed up
>>> the optical sensor circuits that detect the position of the band switch and
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>>> 73, Dick WC1M
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> www.skyviewradio.net
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radiofreebob@...m
www.skyviewradio.net

1757. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-03-26 11:45:26 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1749 Message: 1757

On Fri, 25 Mar 2016 23:52:24 -0400, "Robert Bastone radiofreebob@...
[Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I don't have a detailed schematic handy to see.

A schematic is available here: <http://kj6yvt.com/amplifier.htm#menu>.

1758. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-04-07 16:55:42 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1749 Message: 1758

Bob,

Any progress that you can share with the group?

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1759. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-04-07 18:23:51 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1749 Message: 1759

The amp is on its way back to the mother ship as we speak. I'll let everyone know what the deal was. Again, thanks for all the input.

vy73
Bob WC3O

On Thu, Apr 7, 2016 at 12:55 PM, jsternmd@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Bob,
>
> Any progress that you can share with the group?
>
> Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
>
>

--
radiofreebob@...
www.skyviewradio.net

1760. Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 22:17:53 UTC
From: w4aaw@...
Topic: 1760 Message: 1760

I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow managed to erase it!

Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where I can download (and SAVE) it.

73

Mike W4AAW

W4AAW@aol.com

1761. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 22:37:34 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1760 Message: 1761

This may help:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow
> managed to erase it!
>
> Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where
> I can download (and SAVE) it.
>
> 73
>
> Mike W4AAW
>
> W4AAW@...
>
>

1762. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 23:16:56 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1762 Message: 1762
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1763. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 23:18:20 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1762 Message: 1763
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1764. RE: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 23:31:28 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1760 Message: 1764

I have appreciated HB9ZS' software, especially having the amplifier tuning follow the radio without having to transmit. I've had problems getting it to work lately, though that's probably because of my computer's COM port issues.

I uploaded to my OneDrive ZIP files of three versions that I have saved. You should be able to download them and play with them. They are at

https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=C582775B5E177023!36593 <https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=C582775B5E177023!36593&authkey=!AJE_iy7eulOSsT4&ithint=folder%2czip> &authkey=!AJE_iy7eulOSsT4&ithint=folder%2czip

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: June 08, 2016 18:18
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Curiously, that site has detailed info and instructions, but no download

TU

----- Reply message -----
From: "Joe wd0m@... <mailto:wd0m@...> [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> >
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> >
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software
Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2016 6:37 PM

This may help:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... <mailto:w4aaw@aol.com> [Alpha87a] wrote:

I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow managed to erase it!

Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where I can download (and SAVE) it.

73

Mike W4AAW

W4AAW@... <mailto:W4AAW@...>

1765. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-08 23:27:44 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1760 Message: 1765

You're right - no download on his home page. Try this one:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_dload.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 5:18 PM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Curiously, that site has detailed info and instructions, but no download
>
> TU
>
> Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone
>
> ----- Reply message -----
> From: "Joe wd0m@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software
> Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2016 6:37 PM
>
> This may help:
>
> http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html
>
> 73,
>
> Joe
> WDØM
>
> On 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>>
>> I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow
>> managed to erase it!
>>
>> Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where
>> I can download (and SAVE) it.
>>
>> 73
>>
>> Mike W4AAW
>>
>> W4AAW@...
>>

>
>

1766. RE: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 00:53:52 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1760 Message: 1766

I could never get his program to run properly. It turns on my 87A but that’s all. None of the buttons control the 87A like the “standby operate switch. The only thing it did was turn on the 87A and nothing after that not even to turn it off.

Maybe I have a corrupt program?

I use the Alpha 87A program version 5.0.3 which works great. I have been using this program for 3 years when I’m at my winter home in Florida to control my 87A.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 7:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

You're right - no download on his home page. Try this one:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_dload.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 5:18 PM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

Curiously, that site has detailed info and instructions, but no download

TU

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Reply message -----
From: "Joe wd0m@... [Alpha87a]" <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software
Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2016 6:37 PM

This may help:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow managed to erase it!

Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where I can download (and SAVE) it.

73

Mike W4AAW

W4AAW@...

1767. RE: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software SPOKE TO SOON

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 00:58:32 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1767 Message: 1767

I spoke too soon. It was another 87A program that I never got working.

HB9ZS’s program works fine and I’ve been using it for over 3 years when I’m at my winter home in Florida for remote operation.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 7:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

You're right - no download on his home page. Try this one:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_dload.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 5:18 PM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

Curiously, that site has detailed info and instructions, but no download

TU

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Reply message -----
From: "Joe wd0m@... [Alpha87a]" <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software
Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2016 6:37 PM

This may help:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow managed to erase it!

Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where I can download (and SAVE) it.

73

Mike W4AAW

W4AAW@...

1768. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: I got those code 37 blues

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 01:20:13 UTC
From: radiofreebob@...
Topic: 1749 Message: 1768

Update on my Alpha 87a and the issue with the band selector switch. I landed up sending it back to RKR for repair. I talked to Glen today. It turns out that the grease they used on the band switch many years ago dried up causing excessive resistance to rotation. Glen soaked the grease with a light oil to loosen it up. It seems to be working now. In my previous e-mail I noted the band switch was trying to move but couldn't. It would try until the amp coded out. Looking forward to seeing the amp again.

vy73
Bob, WC3O

1769. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 01:39:42 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1762 Message: 1769
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1770. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software SPOKE TO SOON

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 01:41:43 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1770 Message: 1770
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1771. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 12:33:22 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1771

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha 87a HB9ZS Comm Server software /alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip
Uploaded by : s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>
Description : 87a CAT software

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a%20HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20software%20/alpha_87a_cat_135_beta.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>

1772. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 12:34:04 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1772

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha 87a HB9ZS Comm Server software /Alpha_cat_503_update.zip
Uploaded by : s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>
Description : 87a CAT software

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a%20HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20software%20/Alpha_cat_503_update.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>

1773. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 12:34:28 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1773

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha 87a HB9ZS Comm Server software /Alpha87_Cat_512.zip
Uploaded by : s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>
Description : 87a CAT software

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a%20HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20software%20/Alpha87_Cat_512.zip

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>

1774. Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software SPOKE TO SOON

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 12:37:15 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1767 Message: 1774

Is there a specific version of software needed for this program? It seems I tried it a couple of years ago and the 87A powered down.
Thanks.
Larry, KN8N

On Wednesday, June 8, 2016 8:58 PM, "'George' goofyham@rochester.rr.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

I spoke too soon. It was another 87A program that I never got working. HB9ZS’s program works fine and I’ve been using it for over 3 years when I’m at my winter home in Florida for remote operation. George K W2YJ From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 7:28 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software You're right - no download on his home page. Try this one:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_dload.html

73,

Joe
WDØMOn 6/8/2016 5:18 PM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
Curiously, that site has detailed info and instructions, but no download TU Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone ----- Reply message -----
From: "Joe wd0m@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need source for HB9ZS's Alpha-cat software
Date: Wed, Jun 8, 2016 6:37 PM
This may help:

http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html

73,

Joe
WDØMOn 6/8/2016 4:17 PM, w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
I have been using this excellent amp control software and somehow managed to erase it! Can anyone please direct me to a source (if there still is one) where I can download (and SAVE) it. 73 Mike W4AAW W4AAW@...

1775. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 12:40:49 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1775

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /HB9ZS Comm Server software /alpha_87a_cat_setup_503.exe
Uploaded by : s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>
Description : HB9ZS CAT software instalation file ver. 5.0.3

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20software%20/alpha_87a_cat_setup_503.exe

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>

1776. HB9ZS software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 13:13:13 UTC
From: tadej.arcon@...
Topic: 1776 Message: 1776

Hello Group,

I have uploaded the HB9ZS CAT software in YahooGroup files section. If you have anything else please share.

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files

73s Ted S52X

1777. Re: [Alpha87a] HB9ZS software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-09 13:35:27 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1777 Message: 1777
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1778. Re: [Alpha87a] HB9ZS software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-10 14:52:11 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1776 Message: 1778

It appears that the Files section is no longer accessible.

On 09 Jun 2016 06:13:13 -0700, "tadej.arcon@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hello Group,
>
>I have uploaded the HB9ZS CAT software in YahooGroup files section. If you have anything else please share.
>
>https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
>
>73s Ted S52X
>

1779. RE: [Alpha87a] HB9ZS software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-10 15:12:34 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1776 Message: 1779

They are still there. Here's the specific folder:

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20s
oftware%20/

73, Jim N7US

-----Original Message-----

It appears that the Files section is no longer accessible.

On 09 Jun 2016 06:13:13 -0700, "tadej.arcon@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hello Group,
>
>I have uploaded the HB9ZS CAT software in YahooGroup files section. If you
have anything else please share.
>
>https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
>
>73s Ted S52X

1780. Re: [Alpha87a] HB9ZS software

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-13 07:57:01 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1776 Message: 1780

You must be signed in with your Yahoo account.

73s Tadej S52X

2016-06-10 17:12 GMT+02:00 'Jim McDonald' jim@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>:

>
>
> They are still there. Here's the specific folder:
>
>
> https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/HB9ZS%20Comm%20Server%20s
> oftware%20/
>
> 73, Jim N7US
>
> -----Original Message-----
>
> It appears that the Files section is no longer accessible.
>
> On 09 Jun 2016 06:13:13 -0700, "tadej.arcon@... [Alpha87a]"
> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Hello Group,
> >
> >I have uploaded the HB9ZS CAT software in YahooGroup files section. If you
> have anything else please share.
> >
> >https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
> https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files
> >
> >73s Ted S52X
>
>
>

--
Tadej Arcon, S52X

1781. Alpha 87a Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-27 16:07:32 UTC
From: kb2nhu@...
Topic: 1781 Message: 1781

Hello Group,
I own an alpha 87a that's giving me a fault 8 (pin diode).
Can anyone tell me a reliable place other than alpha to send this unit for repair,
i tried contacting alpha and they seem to be unreachable.
Thanks in advance,

73's De KF2C
Carlos

1782. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-27 16:18:28 UTC
From: dpbunte
Topic: 1781 Message: 1782

A couple of years ago I had N4UQ replace a failed pin diode, and a few other problems in the 87A that belongs to a friend. His service was PERFECT, PROMPT, and VERY VERY reasonable.
I can't imagine a better place to send an 87A.
Dave - K9FN

Sent from my Galaxy Tab® S2
-------- Original message --------From: "kb2nhu@yahoo.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> Date: 6/27/16 12:07 PM (GMT-05:00) To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Fault 8

Hello Group, I own an alpha 87a that's giving me a fault 8 (pin diode).Can anyone tell me a reliable place other than alpha to send this unit for repair,i tried contacting alpha and they seem to be unreachable.Thanks in advance,
73's De KF2C
Carlos

1783. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-28 00:01:08 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1781 Message: 1783

Hello Carlos,

The message below was posted to this list. Perhaps you will find the information of use in repairing your 87a.

Best regards,
Larry

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure
From: "K4RO Kirk Pickering k4ro@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Wed, 08 Jul 2015 11:17:06 -0500

I've just completed replacement of the transmit PIN diodes in an Alpha 87A. The repair was successful, and I decided to document the entire procedure while it was still fresh in my mind. You can read it here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/TX-PIN-Diode-Replacement.pdf

Some photos are available here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/PIN-Diode-Photos/

If there are steps that I should have performed differently, I would appreciate any suggestions. Thanks to AE0Q, W9RE, N4UQ and W8TN for sharing their information and photos. Hopefully this document will be of value for the next person faced with the task of replacing the transmit PIN diodes.

Kirk K4RO

On 27 Jun 2016 09:07:32 -0700, "kb2nhu@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hello Group,
> I own an alpha 87a that's giving me a fault 8 (pin diode).
> Can anyone tell me a reliable place other than alpha to send this unit for repair,
> i tried contacting alpha and they seem to be unreachable.
> Thanks in advance,
>
>
> 73's De KF2C
>Carlos

1784. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-06-28 00:21:00 UTC
From: Carlos De La Cruz
Topic: 1781 Message: 1784

Thanks Larry
The information seems to be very very helpful, i sent it to my printer and i will look into it,
73 De KF2C Carlos De La Cruz
Wiseboc LLC
(C)917-709-7987
(W) 212-796-6236
(F) 877-560-7364
kb2nhu@yahoo.com

On Monday, June 27, 2016 8:00 PM, "Larry Dighera larry@...m [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Hello Carlos,

The message below was posted to this list. Perhaps you will find the information of use in repairing your 87a.

Best regards,
Larry

Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX PIN Diode replacement procedure
From: "K4RO Kirk Pickering k4ro@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Wed, 08 Jul 2015 11:17:06 -0500

I've just completed replacement of the transmit PIN diodes in an Alpha 87A. The repair was successful, and I decided to document the entire procedure while it was still fresh in my mind. You can read it here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/TX-PIN-Diode-Replacement.pdf

Some photos are available here:

http://k4ro.net/k4ro/Aplha-87A/PIN-Diode-Photos/

If there are steps that I should have performed differently, I would appreciate any suggestions. Thanks to AE0Q, W9RE, N4UQ and W8TN for sharing their information and photos. Hopefully this document will be of value for the next person faced with the task of replacing the transmit PIN diodes.

Kirk K4RO

On 27 Jun 2016 09:07:32 -0700, "kb2nhu@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hello Group,
> I own an alpha 87a that's giving me a fault 8 (pin diode).
> Can anyone tell me a reliable place other than alpha to send this unit for repair,
> i tried contacting alpha and they seem to be unreachable.
> Thanks in advance,
>
>
> 73's De KF2C
>Carlos

1785. RE: [Alpha87a] Input frequency counter failure

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-08-19 00:05:52 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1743 Message: 1785

I finally had some time to get back into this Alpha 87A with the frequency counter issues.

I removed the counter board and replaced the four ICs (U1 - U4) - two 74HC4520s and two 74HC165s.

The counter is now measuring properly, as verified via the serial port by using the HB9ZS control program.

However, I am having an issue with 15m only. All other bands work fine. I even verified that the band switch alignment is correct.

When I transmit on 15m anywhere between 20.800MHz and 21.700MHz, the amp will immediately throw a Fault 29 (unauthorized frequency). It does not matter whether if the amp is already on 15m or another band. If on another band, say 160m or 10m, and I then key the exciter on 15m, the amp will immediately Fault 29 (illegal frequency) without even trying to tune the band switch or tuning capacitors to their 15m preset positions.

As a test, into a dummy load of course, I swept the entire range from 14MHz to 24MHz or so. The amp will work fine out of band pretty much everywhere within that range. The counter reads within 20KHz of whatever frequency the exciter is dialed to. However, anywhere between 20.800MHz and 21.700MHz, it will Fault 29. Once I go above 21.700MHz or below 20.800Mhz, the amp will tune fine and do full power with no problem on the 15m band position.

I even pulled the 27256 firmware eprom and verified it against a known good image I saved from another 87A a few years ago, and the checksum is identical. I had an instance years ago on another 87A where the eprom lost some bits and caused strange things to happen, but its not the case this time.

It was suggested that maybe my exciter (Icom IC-756PRO3) was spurious on 15m. Simple enough, I checked the exciter's output on a spectrum analyzer, and it looks clean. I even tried two other transceivers to be sure, a Kenwood TS-870, and a Yaesu FT-990, and it made no difference.

My only conclusion at this time is the main processor's allowable frequency range has been corrupted. The only thing I can think of is that when the amp was operated with the failed counter, it possibly somehow corrupted the data in the processor. Without a "roadmap" as to where these ranges are saved in the hex code, I am at a standstill.

Has anyone ever seen such a failure mode? Or have some sort of documentation as to where the allowable frequency ranges are stored in the hex memory?

Eric
K2CB

1786. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-14 15:13:16 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1786

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Alpha 87a Communication software
Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
Description : You will find the installation files on " http://qslnet.de/hb9zs "

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a%20Communication%20software

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

hb9zs <hb9zs@...>

1787. Re: [Alpha87a] New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-14 15:29:05 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1787 Message: 1787
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1788. Re: [Alpha87a] New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-14 16:48:41 UTC
From: 'DGB'
Topic: 1710 Message: 1788

Yes it's the best out there ... thank you Walter!

73 Dwight NS9I

On 9/14/2016 10:29 AM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Our contest team makes continued use of this EXCELLENT software.
>
> Danke Sehr für deine app. Das ist ausgezeichnet!
>
> Mike W4AAW
>
>
>
> ----- Reply message -----
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] New file uploaded to Alpha87a
> Date: Wed, Sep 14, 2016 11:13 AM
>
>
> Hello,
>
> This email message is a notification to let you know that
> a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
> group.
>
> File : /Alpha 87a Communication software
> Uploaded by : hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
> Description : You will find the installation files on "
> http://qslnet.de/hb9zs "
>
> You can access this file at the URL:
>
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Alpha%2087a%20Communication%20software
>
> To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
> https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398
>
> Regards,
>
> hb9zs <hb9zs@...>
>
>

1789. 87A transformer noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 17:16:06 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1789 Message: 1789

I haven't been using my 87A very much for the last couple of years, instead using my KPA500. However, I did use the 87A during the CQWW RTTY Contest this last weekend. I ran it between 1000-1500W, which I appreciated, in the contest.

The 87A transformer hummed/buzzed during full load. I can't quantify how loud, and I didn't hear it much when wearing headphones with good acoustic isolation.

When I had a 9500, the original Hypersil transformer was loud but the noise disappeared when I replaced the transformer with the new toroid one. I tried mounting the original transformer on cork to absorb the vibration, but it wasn't very effective, as I recall.

My questions are if that's to be expected and whether the noise can be reduced.

Or am I just spoiled by the quiet, solid state KPA500?

73, Jim N7US

1790. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 18:24:29 UTC
From: <jim@...>
Topic: 1789 Message: 1790

Were you running the amp in the Hi or Low Voltage switch position?

Jim?
KB0X

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise
From: "'Jim McDonald' jim@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, September 26, 2016 12:16 pm
To: "Alpha 87A Reflector" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

I haven’t been using my 87A very much for the last couple of years, instead using my KPA500. However, I did use the 87A during the CQWW RTTY Contest this last weekend.? I ran it between 1000-1500W, which I appreciated, in the contest.
?
The 87A transformer hummed/buzzed during full load.? I can’t quantify how loud, and I didn’t hear it much when wearing headphones with good acoustic isolation.
?
When I had a 9500, the original Hypersil transformer was loud but the noise disappeared when I replaced the transformer with the new toroid one.? I tried mounting the original transformer on cork to absorb the vibration, but it wasn’t very effective, as I recall.
?
My questions are if that’s to be expected and whether the noise can be reduced.
?
Or am I just spoiled by the quiet, solid state KPA500?
?
73, Jim N7US
?
?

1791. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 18:47:15 UTC
From: Jim McDonald
Topic: 1789 Message: 1791

HI.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: September 26, 2016 13:24
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

Were you running the amp in the Hi or Low Voltage switch position?

Jim

KB0X

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise
From: "'Jim McDonald' <mailto:jim@...> jim@... [Alpha87a]"
< <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, September 26, 2016 12:16 pm
To: "Alpha 87A Reflector" < <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

I haven’t been using my 87A very much for the last couple of years, instead using my KPA500. However, I did use the 87A during the CQWW RTTY Contest this last weekend. I ran it between 1000-1500W, which I appreciated, in the contest.

The 87A transformer hummed/buzzed during full load. I can’t quantify how loud, and I didn’t hear it much when wearing headphones with good acoustic isolation.

When I had a 9500, the original Hypersil transformer was loud but the noise disappeared when I replaced the transformer with the new toroid one. I tried mounting the original transformer on cork to absorb the vibration, but it wasn’t very effective, as I recall.

My questions are if that’s to be expected and whether the noise can be reduced.

Or am I just spoiled by the quiet, solid state KPA500?

73, Jim N7US

1792. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 19:07:50 UTC
From: <jim@...>
Topic: 1789 Message: 1792

That blows my theory.

Jim

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise
From: "'Jim McDonald' jim@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, September 26, 2016 1:47 pm
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

HI.
?
73, Jim N7US
?
?
From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: September 26, 2016 13:24
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise
?

Were you running the amp in the Hi or Low Voltage switch position?
?
Jim
KB0X
?
-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise
From: "'Jim McDonald' jim@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, September 26, 2016 12:16 pm
To: "Alpha 87A Reflector" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>

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The 87A transformer hummed/buzzed during full load.? I can’t quantify how loud, and I didn’t hear it much when wearing headphones with good acoustic isolation.

When I had a 9500, the original Hypersil transformer was loud but the noise disappeared when I replaced the transformer with the new toroid one.? I tried mounting the original transformer on cork to absorb the vibration, but it wasn’t very effective, as I recall.
?
My questions are if that’s to be expected and whether the noise can be reduced.

?
Or am I just spoiled by the quiet, solid state KPA500?
?;
73, Jim N7US
?
?
?

1793. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 20:12:54 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1789 Message: 1793

If all else is working as it should then most likely the hum is part of aging in response to variations in humidity and temperature of the transformer. See this discussion about the unique transformer built by Peter Dahl for the Alpha 87a:
http://www.hamradiomarket.com/Articles/Alpha87A.htm

I don't know if it was a 'hypersil" but even so, hypersil simply means "grain-oriented Silicon Steel". Here is some more info from another source --- "the most typical and commonly seen form of this is a "cut core" where the cores are made from silicon strip steel that is "wound" into an oblong, semi-rectangular shape. Winding the strip steel in this fashion keeps the "grain" of the steel all going in the same direction. The cores are then "cut" and the cut surfaces are highly polished so that they can be matched up again after being placed around the coil. The cores must then be tightly banded to minimize (as much as possible) the "hum" often heard from transformers. This "hum" is caused by the 2 smooth surfaces "vibrating" when power is run through the unit and is extremely difficult to prevent, even with banding and varnishing"

I don't think the hum affects operation or longevity of the transformer, it's just annoying and makes for a good reason to place the amp remotely if possible.

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 1:16 PM
To: Alpha 87A Reflector
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A transformer noise

I haven't been using my 87A very much for the last couple of years, instead using my KPA500. However, I did use the 87A during the CQWW RTTY Contest this last weekend. I ran it between 1000-1500W, which I appreciated, in the contest.

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When I had a 9500, the original Hypersil transformer was loud but the noise disappeared when I replaced the transformer with the new toroid one. I tried mounting the original transformer on cork to absorb the vibration, but it wasn't very effective, as I recall.

My questions are if that's to be expected and whether the noise can be reduced.

Or am I just spoiled by the quiet, solid state KPA500?

73, Jim N7US

1794. 6 meter noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-26 22:28:50 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1794 Message: 1794

I just notice something recently and wondered if anyone had the same experience. With the amplifier plugged in but turned off I get a series of signals across the 6 meter band. If I turn the amplifier 87a on but in standby the signals go away. The amplifier was in line when I saw it. . I am not sure whether I tried it with the amplifier plugged in but not connected in line with coax.
Barney K3LA

1795. Re: 6 meter noise

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-09-27 13:32:08 UTC
From: keith evans
Topic: 1794 Message: 1795

Hi Barney,

Mine does the same, with one of the spurs very close to 50.110

73

Keith G3VKW

1796. Need help with blinking load LED's on Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-14 17:12:47 UTC
From: wi4usa@...
Topic: 1796 Message: 1796

I was hopeful that someone can help me understand and troubleshoot what is going on with my Alpha 87A. When I turn on the amp, it immediately faults and the Load Up and Down LED's start blinking. After it warms up, I am able to move the OPR/STBY switch up and down several times and the fault clears, I get full power. When I switch bands either by choosing a segment manually or changing the band on the radio and keying, the fault comes back. I have a 1:1.3-1.6 across the entire band with my mosley 67C. So I know the SWR is not an issue. I am tuning with 20 watts each time I switch to a new band. When it faults, no lights are lite on the Segment LED's.

I had this same issue two weeks ago, then it stopped happening. Nothing has changed, so I am confused as to what could be going on. Any help would be appreciated. Any ideas?

73 de wi4usa

Thom
Thomas.jw.baxter@gmail.com

1797. RE: [Alpha87a] Need help with blinking load LED's on Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-15 02:55:45 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1796 Message: 1797

Thom,

What are the Segment LEDs showing? You have either a 33 or 34 fault and the segment lights should tell you.

See p38:

Fault 33 - TUNE up and down LEDs flash – Soft - Control system fault; TUNE capacitor not initializing.

Fault 34 - TUNE up and down LEDs flash – Soft - Control system fault; TUNE capacitor not moving or zero sensor position not working.

Hopefully, it could be just years of accumulated dirt/grim causing some sticking to the large variable tuning cap. Is the amp sitting completely flat and level? I heard somewhere here in the past that if there is any torsion on the chassis then the tune and load caps may stick.

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 1:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Need help with blinking load LED's on Alpha 87A

I was hopeful that someone can help me understand and troubleshoot what is going on with my Alpha 87A. When I turn on the amp, it immediately faults and the Load Up and Down LED's start blinking. After it warms up, I am able to move the OPR/STBY switch up and down several times and the fault clears, I get full power. When I switch bands either by choosing a segment manually or changing the band on the radio and keying, the fault comes back. I have a 1:1.3-1.6 across the entire band with my mosley 67C. So I know the SWR is not an issue. I am tuning with 20 watts each time I switch to a new band. When it faults, no lights are lite on the Segment LED's.

I had this same issue two weeks ago, then it stopped happening. Nothing has changed, so I am confused as to what could be going on. Any help would be appreciated. Any ideas?

73 de wi4usa

Thom

Thomas.jw.baxter@...

1798. ALPHA 87A Code 9 faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-23 13:37:43 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1798 Message: 1798

I could use some input. I was on 75M a few weeks back in one of the RTTY contests and all of a sudden I started getting CODE 9 Faults

2 weeks of troubleshooting by one of the best in the field has found that:

"Still getting a fault. Using a 100: 1 probe I connected my oscilloscope to

RBIAS. It's 750 volts and should be 0 volts during receive. There's no "R"
5 volts coming from the micro. "

Anyone have any input that could help us out??

Thanks

73

Barry

my direct email is:

n2bj@comcast.net

1799. Re: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A Code 9 faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-23 16:04:47 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1798 Message: 1799

Here are the Fault 9 troubleshooting notes.

Glenn AE0Q.

==========

Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads of the diode.

The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias, and 3.9 megohm in reverse bias.. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types (the Recieve PIN diodes), and with one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to FORWARD bias it, they read 1.5 megohm. The REVERSE bias reading must be close to 3.9 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much and the diode is bad.
With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short. If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the Safety Choke board.

Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.

Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!

1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there
is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module). Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.

2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option go to step 3.

3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad, problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned on/off by the +/-30v.

4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function.

The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias, and 3.9 megohm in reverse bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

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There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be checked if the other 4 are OK.

Check L1 (in the T/R Module) for any traces of an arc or burn. It may be under L1 (use some epoxy material for isolation).

On Sun, Oct 23, 2016 at 7:37 AM, n2bj@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I could use some input. I was on 75M a few weeks back in one of the RTTY
> contests and all of a sudden I started getting CODE 9 Faults
>
>
> 2 weeks of troubleshooting by one of the best in the field has found that:
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>
> "Still getting a fault. Using a 100: 1 probe I connected my oscilloscope
> to
>
> RBIAS. It's 750 volts and should be 0 volts during receive. There's no
> "R"
>
> 5 volts coming from the micro. "
>
>
> Anyone have any input that could help us out??
>
>
> Thanks
>
>
> 73
>
>
> Barry
>
>
> my direct email is:
>
>
>
> n2bj@...
>
>
>
>
>
>
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie IJC, WV-I
and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF,
APD, APG, APR, APK,

SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1800. Re: [Alpha87a] ALPHA 87A Code 9 faults

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-23 17:11:22 UTC
From: Barry J. Cohen (N2BJ)
Topic: 1798 Message: 1800

Thanks Glenn!!

I will let you know what we find

You are a fine citizen for helping me!!!
Thanks again

73

N2BJ

Sent from my iPhone6P

> On Oct 23, 2016, at 11:04 AM, GWP <gm5bkc@...> wrote:
>
> Here are the Fault 9 troubleshooting notes.
>
> Glenn AE0Q.
>
> ==========
>
> Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually
> caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.
>
> To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The
> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
> "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the
> chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads
> of the diode.
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> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a
> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias, and
> 3.9 megohm in reverse bias.. Measure your meter in the normal
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> meter used to FORWARD bias it, they read 1.5 megohm. The
> REVERSE bias reading must be close to 3.9 megohm. If yours
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> two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small
> blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little
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> something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also
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> chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the
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> Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw
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> Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is
> 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!
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> 1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on
> The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts
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> Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there
> is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module).
> Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.
>
> 2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power
> Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This
> can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option
> go to step 3.
>
> 3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v
> there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad,
> problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if
> voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted
> Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned
> on/off by the +/-30v.
>
> 4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be
> +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.
>
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> multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the
> "diode check" function.
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> The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that
> the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.
> We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
> resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter
> here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a

> good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias, and
> 3.9 megohm in reverse bias. Measure your meter in the normal
> resistance check function with another in the volts range to check
> the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
>
> The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types (the
> Recieve PIN diodes), and with one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the
> meter used to FORWARD bias it, they read 1.5 megohm. The
> REVERSE bias reading must be close to 3.9 megohm. If yours
> are reading 10k and your meter uses a similar voltage on the test
> leads, then it is leaking too much and the diode is bad.
>
> There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be
> checked if the other 4 are OK.
>
> Check L1 (in the T/R Module) for any traces of an arc or burn. It
> may be under L1 (use some epoxy material for isolation).
>
>
>
>> On Sun, Oct 23, 2016 at 7:37 AM, n2bj@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>> I could use some input. I was on 75M a few weeks back in one of the RTTY contests and
all of a sudden I started getting CODE 9 Faults
>>
>>
>>
>> 2 weeks of troubleshooting by one of the best in the field has found that:
>>
>>
>>
>> "Still getting a fault. Using a 100: 1 probe I connected my oscilloscope to
>>
>> RBIAS. It's 750 volts and should be 0 volts during receive. There's no "R"
>>
>> 5 volts coming from the micro. "
>>
>>
>>
>> Anyone have any input that could help us out??
>>
>>
>>
>> Thanks
>>
>>
>>
>> 73
>>
>>
>>

```
>> Barry
>>
>>
>>
>> my direct email is:
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> n2bj@...
>>
>>
>>
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>>
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>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>
>
> --
> Glenn, Merri, Hildie IJC, WV-I
> and NATCH Katie,
> NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
> MXB, MJB, OF,
> APD, APG, APR, APK,
> SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ
> S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,
>
> http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/
>
> http://funagility.webs.com/
>
```

1801. Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-24 02:34:41 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1801 Message: 1801

I think I noticed a little burnt carbon when this happened early this morning.
I've gone through the checkout procedures with these results
Resistance from tank coil to chassis 20K OK

Across blue cap 16K OK

Voltage is -3 VDC on either end of large resistors NG

After lifting center of coax from safety choke board -3 VDC NG

On J1-3 on input T/R board (under tube deck) -109 VDC unplugged OK

With J1-3 plugged back in -104 VDC OK
On T/R board J2-2,3 which should be -/+30 depending on keying amp I only get 0 and 0.43 VDC NG

Does anyone have any ideas where next to go?

I have emailed Glenn on this also.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1802. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-24 13:18:01 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1801 Message: 1802

I presume you've already seen this:

==========
http://asktheham.com/node/55
Alpha 87A Fault 8
published by administrator on Sat, 12/04/2010 - 21:05
Forums:
Alpha 87A Entries
THIS IS VERY, VERY DANGEROUS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE EXPERIENCE WORKING AROUND HIGH VOLTAGE, DO NOT - WE REPEAT, DO NOT DO THIS. CALL THE COMPANY FOR AN RMA NUMBER, PACK THE AMPLIFIER IN A BOX, AND RETURN IT TO US FOR SERVICE. THERE IS A 3,000 VOLT POWER SUPPLY IN THE AMPLIFIER THAT CAN EASILY KILL YOU. THERE ARE MULTIPLE POINTS IN THIS AMPLIFIER THAT GENERATE LETHAL VOLTAGES. WE REPEAT - UNLESS YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING WITH THIS, AND YOU'VE WORKED AROUND HIGH VOLTAGES BEFORE, DO NOT OPEN THE CASE AND DEFEAT ANY INTERLOCK EVER. (EVER)
Fault 8 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.
With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short. If there is, that will cause a Fault 8 because the -109 goes through the two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the chassis near the two resistors.
Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw of the HV shorting spring to insulate it.
Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!
1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on the chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module). Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.
2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option go to step 3.
3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad, problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to

step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned on/off by the +/-30v.
4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.
To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function.
The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring
resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).
The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it, they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.

There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be checked if the other 4 are OK.
==========

On 23 Oct 2016 19:34:41 -0700, "w9re@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I think I noticed a little burnt carbon when this happened early this morning.
>I've gone through the checkout procedures with these results
> Resistance from tank coil to chassis 20K OK
>
> Across blue cap 16K OK
>
> Voltage is -3 VDC on either end of large resistors NG
>
> After lifting center of coax from safety choke board -3 VDC NG
>
> On J1-3 on input T/R board (under tube deck) -109 VDC unplugged OK
>
> With J1-3 plugged back in -104 VDC OK
> On T/R board J2-2,3 which should be -/+30 depending on keying amp I only get 0 and 0.43 VDC NG
>
>
> Does anyone have any ideas where next to go?
>
>
> I have emailed Glenn on this also.
>
>
> Thanks,
>

>
> Mike W9RE

1803. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 02:25:45 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1801 Message: 1803

I went through all the recommended troubleshooting and had no luck. One thing that I think might be confusing is the statement to check the -/+ 33 v in T/R module J2-2,3. If the amp is faulting I don't think this voltage will change mine was a constant 33 v.

With the offer of help from my good friend WO9Z we worked on the amp for about 6 hours on Monday and muttered several times that what was happening was very weird and sometimes not possible. On the -109 v line we had 3.6K ohms to ground which we guessed was causing the problem. We took Q2 on the input T/R board out of the circuit, took the feed thru out of the circuit, lifted the coax from the safety choke board, cut loose the tank circuit, cut loose the big resistors and cut the small blue cap. During this time on the output T/R board we discovered a blown GDT (gas discharge tube not on the schematic) blown and a small cap C8 with a blown hole in it. Although these did not affect the -109 v line directly. Finally we unsoldered the bank of caps C13 to C17 padder caps for 160 operation. These caps are buried in the middle of the amp and not really easy to visually inspect. After doing this we had isolated the 3.6K to ground leak. It turned out to be a 75pf 6KV cap that had a carbon mark on it and was showing 3.6 K ohms.

In hind sight I guess that changing the band switch manually would have shown only a fault on 160 which would have helped considerably.

I got the parts from Glenn at Alpha overnight delivered and have the amp working again for the contest this weekend.

Mike W9RE

1804. Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 02:37:46 UTC
From: k7rld@...
Topic: 1804 Message: 1804

I acquired a very nicely kept Alpha 87A early this year and it has given me hours of uninterrupted fun.

I noticed on my first glance under the hood when i got it that the relay arm that swings to the top of the plate choke was badly discolored about 1/2 inch from the end. It not only looked like a chunk was out of it, the top of the plate choke was also discolored and pitted. It keeps on working but that has to get changed out.

My understanding is that this closes when the amplifier is switched to 160M and 80M to add additional capacitance.

Can someone explain the conditions that may have prevailed to get it in that condition?

I'm doubtful that Alpha has any of these parts laying around for the 87A. It doesn't look too difficult to fashion another one to attach to the relay however unless I'm missing something.

Would appreciate some guidance on repair.
Thanks very much

John / K7RLD
k7rld@comcast.net

1805. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 02:57:02 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1801 Message: 1805

Hi Mike,

Congratulations and big thanks for sharing this long journey with all of us. Do you recall where the undocumented GDT was in the circuit? Did Glenn mention if the GDT was a standard component found in all 87a's T/R board versions?

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 10:26 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

I went through all the recommended troubleshooting and had no luck. One thing that I think might be confusing is the statement to check the -/+ 33 v in T/R module J2-2,3. If the amp is faulting I don't think this voltage will change mine was a constant 33 v.

With the offer of help from my good friend WO9Z we worked on the amp for about 6 hours on Monday and muttered several times that what was happening was very weird and sometimes not possible. On the -109 v line we had 3.6K ohms to ground which we guessed was causing the problem. We took Q2 on the input T/R board out of the circuit, took the feed thru out of the circuit, lifted the coax from the safety choke board, cut loose the tank circuit, cut loose the big resistors and cut the small blue cap. During this time on the output T/R board we discovered a blown GDT (gas discharge tube not on the schematic) blown and a small cap C8 with a blown hole in it. Although these did not affect the -109 v line directly. Finally we unsoldered the bank of caps C13 to C17 padder caps for 160 operation. These caps are buried in the middle of the amp and not really easy to visually inspect. After doing this we had isolated the 3.6K to ground leak. It turned out to be a 75pf 6KV cap that had a carbon mark on it and was showing 3.6 K ohms.

In hind sight I guess that changing the band switch manually would have shown only a fault on 160 which would have helped considerably.

I got the parts from Glenn at Alpha overnight delivered and have the amp working again for the contest this weekend.

Mike W9RE

1806. Re: W9RE fault 8 fix

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 14:17:03 UTC
From: k6xt
Topic: 1806 Message: 1806

Mike thanks for the superb detail of your "adventure" on this. For sure filed this one away!

73 Art K6XT~~
Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.
ARRL LM, CW OPS, GMCC, MHDXA, NAQCC, NCDXF, SDDXC, CDXC
ARRL TA

On 10/28/2016 1:46 AM, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:
> There are 3 messages in this issue.
>
> Topics in this digest:
>
> 1a. Re: Fault #8
> From: w9re3
> 1b. Re: Fault #8
> From: Jerry O. Stern
>
> 2. Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke
> From: jrmorris28
>
>
> Messages
> _____
> 1a. Re: Fault #8
> Posted by: w9re@... w9re3
> Date: Thu Oct 27, 2016 7:25 pm ((PDT))
>
> I went through all the recommended troubleshooting and had no luck. One thing that I think might be confusing is the statement to check the -/+ 33 v in T/R module J2-2,3. If the amp is faulting I don't think this voltage will change mine was a constant 33 v.
>
>
>
> With the offer of help from my good friend WO9Z we worked on the amp for about 6 hours on Monday and muttered several times that what was happening was very weird and sometimes not possible. On the -109 v line we had 3.6K ohms to ground which we guessed was causing the problem. We took Q2 on the input T/R board out of the circuit, took the feed thru out of the circuit, lifted the coax from the safety choke board, cut loose the tank circuit, cut loose the big resistors and cut the small blue cap. During this time on the output T/R board we discovered a blown GDT (gas discharge tube not on the schematic) blown and a small cap C8 with a blown hole in it. Although these did not affect the -109 v line directly. Finally we unsoldered the bank of caps C13 to C17 padder caps for 160 operation. These caps are buried in the middle of the amp and not really easy to visually inspect. After doing this we had isolated the 3.6K to ground leak. It turned out to be a 75pf 6KV cap that had a

carbon mark on it and was showing 3.6 K ohms.
>
>
>
> In hind sight I guess that changing the band switch manually would have shown only a fault on 160 which would have helped considerably.
>
>
>
> I got the parts from Glenn at Alpha overnight delivered and have the amp working again for the contest this weekend.
>
>
>
> Mike W9RE
>
>
>
> Messages in this topic (4)
> _____
> 1b. Re: Fault #8
> Posted by: "Jerry O. Stern" jsternmd@... jsternmd@...
> Date: Thu Oct 27, 2016 7:57 pm ((PDT))
>
> Hi Mike,
>
>
>
> Congratulations and big thanks for sharing this long journey with all of us. Do you recall where the undocumented GDT was in the circuit? Did Glenn mention if the GDT was a standard component found in all 87a's T/R board versions?
>
>
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> NY2KW
>
>
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 10:26 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8
>
>
>
>
>

> I went through all the recommended troubleshooting and had no luck. One thing that I think might be confusing is the statement to check the -/+ 33 v in T/R module J2-2,3. If the amp is faulting I don't think this voltage will change mine was a constant 33 v.
>
> With the offer of help from my good friend WO9Z we worked on the amp for about 6 hours on Monday and muttered several times that what was happening was very weird and sometimes not possible. On the -109 v line we had 3.6K ohms to ground which we guessed was causing the problem. We took Q2 on the input T/R board out of the circuit, took the feed thru out of the circuit, lifted the coax from the safety choke board, cut loose the tank circuit, cut loose the big resistors and cut the small blue cap. During this time on the output T/R board we discovered a blown GDT (gas discharge tube not on the schematic) blown and a small cap C8 with a blown hole in it. Although these did not affect the -109 v line directly. Finally we unsoldered the bank of caps C13 to C17 padder caps for 160 operation. These caps are buried in the middle of the amp and not really easy to visually inspect. After doing this we had isolated the 3.6K to ground leak. It turned out to be a 75pf 6KV cap that had a carbon mark on it and was showing 3.6 K ohms.
>
> In hind sight I guess that changing the band switch manually would have shown only a fault on 160 which would have helped considerably.
>
> I got the parts from Glenn at Alpha overnight delivered and have the amp working again for the contest this weekend.
>
> Mike W9RE
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>
>
> Messages in this topic (4)
> _____
> _____
> 2. Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke
> Posted by: k7rld@... jrmorris28
> Date: Thu Oct 27, 2016 7:37 pm ((PDT))
>
> I acquired a very nicely kept Alpha 87A early this year and it has given me hours of uninterrupted fun.
>
>
>
>
>
> I noticed on my first glance under the hood when i got it that the relay arm that swings to the top of the plate choke was badly discolored about 1/2 inch from the end. It not only looked like a chunk was out of it, the top of the plate choke was also discolored and pitted. It keeps on working but that has to get changed out.
>

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>
>
> My understanding is that this closes when the amplifier is switched to 160M and 80M to add additional capacitance.
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>
> Can someone explain the conditions that may have prevailed to get it in that condition?
>
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>
>
> I'm doubtful that Alpha has any of these parts laying around for the 87A. It doesn't look too difficult to fashion another one to attach to the relay however unless I'm missing something.
>
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>
> Would appreciate some guidance on repair.
>
> Thanks very much
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>
> John / K7RLD
>
> k7rld@...
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> Messages in this topic (1)
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> Yahoo Groups Links
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1807. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 14:45:23 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1801 Message: 1807

Jerry,

The GDT is a Littlefuse CG2-800L standard part 800 V 10 KA that is mounted in the output TR board from the SO239 power output connector to ground. Super easily accessible. $3.20 at DigiKey, these are good devices for protection but do exhibit a bit of capacitance in sensitive receive antenna applications.

Mike W9RE

1808. Re: [Alpha87a] Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 14:40:06 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1804 Message: 1808

The phosphor-bronze plate choke shorting arm (called the clapper) is in stock, we have many of them, part number MSX-X683. It is available on the Alpha RF Systems web site store.

The clapper arm is pulled down by the energized solenoid (relay) when the 87A (or 89 and 99) amp is on the higher bands to short out part of the plate choke. This is to change the choke resonant point on the higher bands, but allows use of the full plate choke on the lower bands where more inductance is needed for blocking the RF from the HV power supply.

When replacing the arm the gap must be adjusted by bending the arm and also the solenoid travel.

Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 8:37 PM, k7rld@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I acquired a very nicely kept Alpha 87A early this year and it has given
> me hours of uninterrupted fun.
>
>
> I noticed on my first glance under the hood when i got it that the relay
> arm that swings to the top of the plate choke was badly discolored about
> 1/2 inch from the end. It not only looked like a chunk was out of it, the
> top of the plate choke was also discolored and pitted. It keeps on working
> but that has to get changed out.
>
>
> My understanding is that this closes when the amplifier is switched to
> 160M and 80M to add additional capacitance.
>
>
> Can someone explain the conditions that may have prevailed to get it in
> that condition?
>
>
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> It doesn't look too difficult to fashion another one to attach to the relay
> however unless I'm missing something.
>
>
> Would appreciate some guidance on repair.
>

> Thanks very much
>
>
> John / K7RLD
>
> k7rld@comcast.net
>
>
>
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie IJC, WV-I
and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1809. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 15:28:23 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1801 Message: 1809

The 800v GDT was added to the 87A output circuit on amps built or repaired after 1999, so it may be not be on all schematics.

Glenn AE0Q

On Thu, Oct 27, 2016 at 8:57 PM, 'Jerry O. Stern' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hi Mike,
>
>
>
> Congratulations and big thanks for sharing this long journey with all of
> us. Do you recall where the undocumented GDT was in the circuit? Did
> Glenn mention if the GDT was a standard component found in all 87a’s T/R
> board versions?
>
>
>
> 73 Jerry
>
> NY2KW
>
>
>
>
>
> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> *Sent:* Thursday, October 27, 2016 10:26 PM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [Alpha87a] Fault #8
>
>
>
>
>
> I went through all the recommended troubleshooting and had no luck. One
> thing that I think might be confusing is the statement to check the -/+ 33
> v in T/R module J2-2,3. If the amp is faulting I don't think this voltage
> will change mine was a constant 33 v.
>
> With the offer of help from my good friend WO9Z we worked on the amp for
> about 6 hours on Monday and muttered several times that what was happening
> was very weird and sometimes not possible. On the -109 v line we had 3.6K

> ohms to ground which we guessed was causing the problem. We took Q2 on the
> input T/R board out of the circuit, took the feed thru out of the circuit,
> lifted the coax from the safety choke board, cut loose the tank circuit,
> cut loose the big resistors and cut the small blue cap. During this time
> on the output T/R board we discovered a blown GDT (gas discharge tube not
> on the schematic) blown and a small cap C8 with a blown hole in it.
> Although these did not affect the -109 v line directly. Finally we
> unsoldered the bank of caps C13 to C17 padder caps for 160 operation. These
> caps are buried in the middle of the amp and not really easy to visually
> inspect. After doing this we had isolated the 3.6K to ground leak. It
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> In hind sight I guess that changing the band switch manually would have
> shown only a fault on 160 which would have helped considerably.
>
> I got the parts from Glenn at Alpha overnight delivered and have the amp
> working again for the contest this weekend.
>
> Mike W9RE
>
> --
>
>

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1810. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 18:08:43 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1810

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /87A plate choke patch.doc
Uploaded by : dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>
Description : Article on 87A plate choke problem and patch

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/87A%20plate%20choke%20patch.doc

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

dickgreen03755 <wc1m73@...>

1811. Re: Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-28 18:33:23 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1804 Message: 1811

John,

As Glenn pointed out, the plate choke relay operates opposite to what you described: it opens (removes the additional capacitance) on bands below 40m.

The damage might have been caused by an old "bug" in the 87A firnware that fails to close the plate choke relay when changing from 160m or 80m to the bottom segment of 40m via RF sensing. The problem does not occur when switching to the bottom segment of 40m from a higher frequency or manually. Therefore, the symptoms appear to be intermittent.

I found this problem almost 20 years ago and got a patch from the factory to correct it. I wrote a rather lengthy article about it, which I just uploaded to the Alpha87A group file area under the name "87A plate choke patch.doc".

Of particular interest is the discussion under "Is it really a bug?" The description of burned plate choke relay contacts might apply to your situation. It's conceivable that an impedance mismatch of a certain type at the bottom of 40m could cause arcing between the plate choke and clapper because it it's open instead of closed. This would likely cause a fault, but it would only occur intermittently, when the amp is switched from 160m or 80m to the bottom segment of 40m via RF sensing. Maybe the previous owner put up with it or it didn't happen often (perhaps the previous owner didn't operate CW.) Also possible that the impedance mismatch isn't as bad with your 40m antenna or you don't operate CW at the bottom of 40m or you haven't switched from 160m or 80m to 40m via RF sensing very often.

Disclaimer: The plate choke bug might have nothing to do with your problem. But it's easy enough to check if the patch is present or not.

Hope this helps.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <k7rld@...> wrote :

I acquired a very nicely kept Alpha 87A early this year and it has given me hours of uninterrupted fun.

I noticed on my first glance under the hood when i got it that the relay arm that swings to the top of the plate choke was badly discolored about 1/2 inch from the end. It not only looked like a chunk was out of it, the top of the plate choke was also discolored and pitted. It keeps on working but that has to get changed out.

My understanding is that this closes when the amplifier is switched to 160M and 80M to add additional capacitance.

Can someone explain the conditions that may have prevailed to get it in that condition?

I'm doubtful that Alpha has any of these parts laying around for the 87A. It doesn't look too difficult to fashion another one to attach to the relay however unless I'm missing

something.

Would appreciate some guidance on repair.
Thanks very much

John / K7RLD
k7rld@...

1812. Re: Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-29 04:14:14 UTC
From: k7rld@...
Topic: 1804 Message: 1812

Dick and Glenn, Thank you for your quick reply.
Your explanations of the relay clapper are quite interesting as well as is the "bug" in the software. I'll be interested in reading about the "cure" you incorporated, Dick.

After removing the old clapper I noticed that the plate choke closely resembles the B&W800, which used to be the standard. Could using the plate choke in later models possibly be used as a replacement and eliminate the use of the clapper circuit? The one used in recent Alpha models seems to look like, I dare say, the ones available thru Ameritron which have no resonant frequencies 160-10M. Maybe it is just a resemblance.

Thanks again for the replies. I will be ordering a clapper from the website, Glenn.

73's John / K7RLD

1813. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-29 15:43:25 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1804 Message: 1813

87A 40m (Segment 1) Clapper Fix

1) Establish computer communications with amplifier per 87A Operating Manual (pages 19-21).

2) Amplifier plugged in, power OFF.

3) Type: EXT ON (turns on FACTORY mode)

4) Type: DM B782[enter] (dump memory at location specified)

a) If first pair of numbers is ØØ then proceed to step 7.

b) If first pair of numbers is BØ type W B782 ØØ[enter]

5) Unplug 87A AC power, plug back in.

6) Repeat steps 3) and 4) to verify data written to memory.

7) Unplug 87A AC power, plug back in.

8) The amplifier is now ready for normal use.

On Fri, Oct 28, 2016 at 10:14 PM, k7rld@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Dick and Glenn,
> Thank you for your quick reply.
> Your explanations of the relay clapper are quite interesting as well as is
> the "bug" in the software. I'll be interested in reading about the "cure"
> you incorporated, Dick.
>
> After removing the old clapper I noticed that the plate choke closely
> resembles the B&W800, which used to be the standard. Could using the plate
> choke in later models possibly be used as a replacement and eliminate the
> use of the clapper circuit? The one used in recent Alpha models seems to
> look like, I dare say, the ones available thru Ameritron which have no
> resonant frequencies 160-10M. Maybe it is just a resemblance.
>
> Thanks again for the replies. I will be ordering a clapper from the
> website, Glenn.
>
> 73's John / K7RLD
>
>

>

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1814. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-29 15:45:50 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1804 Message: 1814

The 40m plate choke issue was fixed in the AlphaMax firmware (version 1.00AT), it is only in the earlier versions.

Glenn AE0Q

1815. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Relay Arm for Top of Plate Choke

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-29 22:13:41 UTC
From: k7rld@...
Topic: 1804 Message: 1815

Thanks a lot, Glenn. Don't know what version of AlphaMax I have but it should show up somewhere, I'm sure. If the version I have isn't up to date, I will make the change as you outlined.
BTW, I placed the order for the clapper today.

73's John / K7RLD

1816. AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-30 22:39:03 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1674 Message: 1816

Hello everyone,
Well been monitoring this group for a while and you have helped me with the 10/12 Meter fix when I just got my amp, so a big thank you for the help. Now I was wondering about this AlphaMax I have heard so much about, Is it really better that the stock factory stuff, because I don't think I have the AlphaMax in mine and not sure how to find out if I do. Just wondering if it's that big of a deal, to have or not to have, that is the question.

Thanks for all your help in the past and hopefully in the future.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1817. RE: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-30 23:44:34 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1674 Message: 1817

I have Alpha Max in my 87A and don’t use it. Can’t even tell you what it does.

I never had a problem with it tuning up automatically.

It was a re-tread from Alpha that HRO sold for them back about 4 years ago.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Hello everyone,
Well been monitoring this group for a while and you have helped me with the 10/12 Meter fix when I just got my amp, so a big thank you for the help. Now I was wondering about this AlphaMax I have heard so much about, Is it really better that the stock factory stuff, because I don't think I have the AlphaMax in mine and not sure how to find out if I do. Just wondering if it's that big of a deal, to have or not to have, that is the question.

Thanks for all your help in the past and hopefully in the future.
73
Brian
W8TFI

1818. Re: [Alpha87a] AlphaMax

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-10-31 00:42:49 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1674 Message: 1818

When the AlphaMax (Autotune) firmware is installed in the 87A,
the TUNE and LOAD LEDs will blink to indicate what the AlphaMax
program would do if it was enabled.

* NOTE !! No matter what firmware is installed in the 87A it should
ALWAYS*
*be operated with the high voltage switch set to HI. The LO setting was
just for*
*some countries that have lower power limits. Higher HV lowers the grid
current*
and plate current and is always better for tube life !!

With ANY version of firmware in the 87A, you should tune up the amp
with your antennas on each band/segment and
save the settings in USER memories. You do this by pressing ENTER and
then while the ENTER LED is flashing, press the segment that you are on.
When changing bands the 87A first goes to the USER memory setting. If
further tuning is needed it will make the adjustments
* if the Autotune mode (AlphaMax) is enabled*. If it is not enabled, the
TUNE and/or LOAD
LEDs will blink to indicate what direction those would be moved.

If it is not in Autotune and the user settings are not at all close to
desirable, it will fall back to factory-saved default settings (for a 50
ohm load) and the DEFAULT LED will light solid.

The Autotune function is enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER
buttons at the same time when the amp is in operate and warmed up. The
DEFAULT LED will flash when Autotune is enabled and the amp is in
operate and warmed up.

The DEFAULT LED indicates 3 conditions of the amp:

1) not lit means it is in original 87A function of automatically
measuring transmitted frequency and recalling memory settings
for band segment closest to that frequency detected.

2) blinking means that autotune (AlphaMax) is enabled, amp
will dynamically retune if drive changes (as when yelling
louder than normal in a pileup, etc).

3) lit solid means the factory memory setting has been recalled

Please note that the TUNE meter is a rough indicator to allow the amp
to be tuned with low drive levels so that it is close to being set for
1500w output. Once you increase the drive and are close to 1500w out,
fine tune by adjusting the TUNE and LOAD controls for maximum output at

the drive level you are at. This should correspond to a dip in the plate current. The TUNE LED may be a number of LEDs off center to either side. The most useful multimeter parameter to monitor when transmitting is the Ip (plate current), also watching the Ig (grid current).

The TUNE meter is calibrated on 20m when the amp is tuned up for 1500w out, with new tubes. As the tubes age, it will indicate off center a bit. Line voltage that is not at the nominal value for each range (200, 220 or 240v) may also affect the TUNE calibration.

Since the 87A has memories that should be saved for the tuneup settings for each band segment, the TUNE meter isn't really as useful as it is with a manually tuned amp (Alpha 89/91B/99).

Regards, Glenn AE0Q

On Sun, Oct 30, 2016 at 4:39 PM, w8tfi@yahoo.com [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hello everyone,
> Well been monitoring this group for a while and you have helped me with
> the 10/12 Meter fix when I just got my amp, so a big thank you for the
> help. Now I was wondering about this AlphaMax I have heard so much about,
> Is it really better that the stock factory stuff, because I don't think I
> have the AlphaMax in mine and not sure how to find out if I do. Just
> wondering if it's that big of a deal, to have or not to have, that is the
> question.
>
> Thanks for all your help in the past and hopefully in the future.
> 73
> Brian
> W8TFI
>
>

--
Glenn, Merri, Hildie IJC, WV-I
and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF,
APD, APG, APR, APK,
SPG, SPR, SPK, SPJ
S-SSA, S-SSLA, S-STA, S-SJA, S-IAA,

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1819. Fault 24 intermittent

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-02 03:54:31 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1819 Message: 1819

After fixing a fault 8 last week on #1 87A right before the contest this past weekend on my 87A in the #2 spot it faulted with a #24 fault. I have seen this before and again turning off the amp and back on twice it faulted but on the 3rd time it was OK and stayed fine the whole weekend. The amp had not been on for a month or so. I just tried it again and it was fine. I see in the files area there are a couple notes on #24 but not sure they would apply to an intermittent. Has anyone had this experience before?

Also a friend of mine had a fault #24 that blew the fuses would this point to the HV caps? Amps are all about 25 years old.

Thanks,

Mike

1820. Fault 17 only on 40 80 and 160M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-03 00:07:13 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1820 Message: 1820

Could use some input. Got the amp back on line and it works PERFECT on 10,12,15,17, 20.

On 40 I can tune it and sometimes get it to work but half the times goes into Fault 17. On 80 and 160 it appears to 90% of time go to Fault 17. Checked for arcing cant' see any, the Input out put SWR meter diodes read OK so I am out of ideas. It looks like the band switch is moving properly and the choke relay is releasing on 80 and 160M so I am out of ideas?

Any thoughts from any of the Alpha87A guys??

Thanks

Barry

N2BJ

n2bj@comcast.net

1821. Re: Fault 17 only on 40 80 and 160M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-03 11:04:43 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1820 Message: 1821

When you say, "Got the amp back on line", what exactly was wrong with it and what did you do to fix it? I see that you were getting fault 9, but I don't see a post from you on the solution. If the repair involved removing or replacing either the input or output bandswitch, it's possible that they're slightly misaligned on the low bands. There's a procedure for checking correcting this by patching the firmware. You'll find it in the files section under "87A Bandswitch Tuning".

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <n2bj@...> wrote :

Could use some input. Got the amp back on line and it works PERFECT on 10,12,15,17, 20.

On 40 I can tune it and sometimes get it to work but half the times goes into Fault 17. On 80 and 160 it appears to 90% of time go to Fault 17. Checked for arcing cant' see any, the Input out put SWR meter diodes read OK so I am out of ideas. It looks like the band switch is moving properly and the choke relay is releasing on 80 and 160M so I am out of ideas?

Any thoughts from any of the Alpha87A guys??

Thanks

Barry

N2BJ

n2bj@...

1822. Re: Fault 17 only on 40 80 and 160M

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-03 13:40:42 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1820 Message: 1822

Good morning Dick and all. My friend Jack WA9FVP repaired the amp as my eyes are not that good working on circuit boards as well as I don't have all the test equipment here anymore. Jack is been great with his troubleshooting skills and circuit knowledge, amazing and very patient and metodical. I will try to get a list of the issues but I know the issue started when I was on 75M RTTY in one of the contests about 6 weeks ago. The amp has always worked fine on all the bands with some tuning issues on 40, 80 and 160.

I think this morning I tracked down the issue with the fault and the mistuning fault 17 notes. It appears that the VSWR is OK between the input of the Amp and my rigs until I go from STBY to OPERATE. It appears that when I go to Operate the VSWR when the Operate relay kicks in goes above 3:1 causing the spike and the Fault.

I was able to get the amp to work on 80 and 40 but not 160 by retuning carefully but that is not the right fix. I need to figure out why on 40, 80 and 160M the VSWR goes way up when the OPERATE switch is turned from STBY to Operate. On 40M the new tuning settings I put in for the segments do not stay in memory even after I hit enter ? Not sure why my USER settings won't hold.

Thanks to all for your help. We are real close now and down to the last problem.

Any thoughts would be appreciated...

Thanks

N2BJ

Barry

n2bj@comcast.net

1823. Fault 34 33 and 21

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-08 12:45:31 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1823 Message: 1823

Amp ran fine all weekend for CW SS. Turned it on yesterday and it ran for a while and now getting the following faults:
SFAULT LOG= 34 33 33 33 33 33 33 34

HFAULT LOG = 21 21 21 21 0 0 0 0

All the research says it is not aligning the cap or sensor or dirty?

Everything looks OK .

I can turn power off sometimes and it resets but the minute I even manually switch the bands on the Alpha Remote program the tuning cap says it goes to O (Zero) and it faults again?

I am really puzzled with this latest development?

Any thoughts.

Thanks
Barry

N2BJ

n2bj@comcast.net

1824. Array Solutions Repair Alphas

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-08 23:14:22 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1824 Message: 1824

I saw on the Array Solutions web site that they are now doing repairs on Alpha amplifiers. I sent a note to Jay and asked if they work on the 87a. He replied that yes they do.

Jim - KR9U

1825. Re: [Alpha87a] Array Solutions Repair Alphas

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-09 21:34:00 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1824 Message: 1825

Do they stock parts too?

Tadej Arcon
Sent from my Iphone

> On 9 Nov 2016, at 00:14, jbwolf@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> I saw on the Array Solutions web site that they are now doing repairs on Alpha amplifiers.
> I sent a note to Jay and asked if they work on the 87a. He replied that yes they do.
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>
>
>

1826. Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 13:08:55 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1826

87A new to me and was at factory 2 month prior to my purchase. Manual indicates default tune settings would provide user with the ability to run 1500 watts. My 87A doesn't. (Here's my config. Flex 5000A to 87A to SteppIR DB-36 antenna running 1.3 to 1 or better.)

Problem Example: I manually select 14 mhz button and segment button 2. This should cover 14.100 to 14.200 and I set Flex for 14.150. Manual says to apply 20 watts. I did....bam fault 17. I have to run Flex all the way down to 2 watts. At 2 watts, 87A indicates 30 w out. I then toggle the Load/Tune (L/T) buttons to keep TUNE (T) light in center. Up the wattage to 5 watts and adjusted L/T trying to keep T in center, Grid (G) at 0 to 35 and Reflected (R) at zero. If I now jump the input power up to 20 w.....bam Fault 17.....start over. After I get to 5 w, I increase input by 5 w increments adjusting L/T, centering T, keeping G down to 0-35 mills and even tweaking the antenna 1/10 of an inch at a time to keep R down. Finally I make it to 1500 w, 1 segment on G is lit, 1 segment on R is lit, T is 1 segment to the right and input is 55 w. I push/hold the enter button and press Band segment 1, which should update the memory for band segment 1. (Manual does say that the user can place the data for that frequency in any of the 5 band segments). I don't think the memory gets updated. I then run Flex up the band to 14.300 and tap the key....87A switches band segment button correctly but ALL G segments are lit and 2 or 3 R segments are lit. I then run the Flex back to 14.150 and tap the key. 87A switches band segment back to segment #2 (Remember I previously saved the 14.150 tune data into #1). All of the G segments are lit, R has 2 or 3 segments lit.

I start over at 2 w....doing all of the above over again except this time I save the data to band segment 2. I run Flex up to 14.300 again...same result. I run the Flex back to 14.150 and tap key. 87A switches band segments to #2, ALL segments of G are lit, R has 2 or 3 segments lit.

I have read previous posts here about users being able to unpack the 87A, plug it in, run default settings at 1500 watts and never look back.

Folks .....I"m just not there....don't see it, don't get it. I was looking at doing the band-switch alignment procedure but my PC is all USB, no serial ports. I'm running Windows 7 Pro....doesn't have hyper-terminal feature. Anyone know of a USB to serial port method? Should I be looking at some other issues?

Groveling for input of value. Where do I go from here?

Tnx

Mike

1827. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 14:13:30 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1826 Message: 1827

Take a look at this thread on Fault 17. Many times it’s the exciter/xcvr having a transient spike on applying PTT. Several radios were notorious for this. Do you have another radio to try instead of the Flex as a test?

http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2004-01/msg00211.html

73 Jerry

NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

87A new to me and was at factory 2 month prior to my purchase. Manual indicates default tune settings would provide user with the ability to run 1500 watts. My 87A doesn't. (Here's my config. Flex 5000A to 87A to SteppIR DB-36 antenna running 1.3 to 1 or better.)

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7 Pro....doesn't have hyper-terminal feature. Anyone know of a USB to serial port method?

Should I be looking at some other issues?

Groveling for input of value. Where do I go ! from here?

Tnx

Mike

1828. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 17:22:15 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1828

Tnx Jerry....I am digesting the thread. I do not have another Tx at this time to use. Since your post I discovered that my 87a has AlphaMax installed. I didn't think it did. I tried it and it will auto tune 20 m band but needs some manual LOAD adjustment help. Won't work at all on 80 m. I don't think it should need any manual adjusting. I'm looking on Flex community website for ALC and spike problems. To my knowledge the only ALC control on the flex is to do with the mic. When testing the flex and the 87a I have been using the flex tune button to produce a tone at the correct drive level..... no mic involved. Not sure if ALC is involved in that step or not, but don't think so. As far as ALC been involved on the tx output level not sure how flex does that software control.

Thanks for your input Jerry.

Mike

1829. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 17:29:30 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1826 Message: 1829

Mike,

Remember that as soon as you touch either of the TUNE or LOAD switches to manually move those settings the amp drops out of Autotune function (AlphaMax). It must be re-enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER at the same time to restart AlphaMax. If the DEFAULT LED isn't blinking, then AlphaMax isn't running.

Glenn AE0Q

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1830. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 17:32:28 UTC
From: jaynardone@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1830

Its the one reason I dont run my Yaesu FT-1000 MkV on the 87A any longer. The TX spike was causing the Fault 17 almost every time I would transmit.

Jay - W3SCA

----- Original Message -----

From: "'Jerry O. Stern' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 9:13:30 AM
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Take a look at this thread on Fault 17. Many times it’s the exciter/xcvr having a transient spike on applying PTT. Several radios were notorious for this. Do you have another radio to try instead of the Flex as a test?

http://lists.contesting.com/_amps/2004-01/msg00211.html

73 Jerry

NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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I start over at 2 w....doing all of the above over again except this time I save the data to band segment 2. I run Flex up to 14.300 again...same result. I run the Flex back to 14.150 and tap key. 87A switches band segments to #2, ALL segments of G are lit, R has 2 or 3 segments lit.

I have read previous posts here about users being able to unpack the 87A, plug it in, run default settings at 1500 watts and never look back.

Folks .....I"m just not there....don't see it, don't get it. I was looking at doing the band-switch alignment procedure but my PC is all USB, no serial ports. I'm running Windows 7 Pro....doesn't have hyper-terminal feature. Anyone know of a USB to serial port method?

Should I be looking at some other issues?

Groveling for input of value. Where do I go ! from here?

Tnx

Mike

1831. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 18:11:38 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1831

Thank you Glenn. Yes is was aware of that. I am enabling the AlphaMax feature, hit the tune button on flex and I watch the 87a do it's thing. The Grid current indicator starts out at around 100+ ma and works it's way down maybe all the way to 35 ma. Other times it starts out with Grid again at 100+ and doesn't adjust down at all and in a few seconds trips a fault. I start it up again with AlphaMax, I then tap the LOAD button and the Grid starts coming down to the 35ma range. Once there I reactivate AlphaMax again and tap the flex tune button. The 87a then stays there and I am able to increase the drive level of the flex above 20 w. On 20m I can drive it up to 1500 w with everything staying in the proper range as long as I don't QSY to far from my original frequency. If I do QSY to far I have to help AlphaMax with manual adjustments again. 80 m won't work at all whether it is on the antenna or the dummy load. 87a trips out 2 w input and above.

Glenn, I wished I was closer than 8 hour drive and I would bring it in.....don't want to ship.

Mike

1832. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 18:19:32 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1832

Jay....Thanks for the comment. Wouldn't you think that with all the Yaesu FT-1000 MkV out there that someone has one working on a 87A. I know there are Flex 5000/Alpha 87A combinations in use.....I just don't who the operator/owners are.

Mike

1833. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 18:27:25 UTC
From: jaynardone@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1833

Mike, I know right? I was loosing my mind because the FT1000 MP MkV wasnt on any of the lists I saw. I couldnt figure out what was going on with the amp and then one day I ran across a thread about this combo and bingo that was the issue! I even tried ALC to the amp and just could never solve the issue so the 87A is now connected to my Icom radios with no issues. I hope we can get to the bottom of this with you!

Jay

----- Original Message -----

From: "w7pim@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 1:19:32 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Jay....Thanks for the comment. Wouldn't you think that with all the Yaesu FT-1000 MkV out there that someone has one working on a 87A. I know there are Flex 5000/Alpha 87A combinations in use.....I just don't who the operator/owners are.

Mike

1834. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 19:02:14 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1826 Message: 1834

Mike,

In the original thread link I gave you, there is also a discussion that Fault 17 (in most cases) is a firmware report text error and it should actually read Fault 13. Fault 13 means “Excessive and unsafe drive power.”

Do you have a digital SWR/Power meter with a peak hold function. Putting that between the Flex and Alpha87a would show you if there is a power spike on the PTT edge. I searched and someone reported similar with FLEX 3000 – see http://forums.flexradio.com/Topic5284-55-1.aspx They suggested to test by changing some settings on the flex and try in CW mode the following:

1-Does it fault with the microphone disconnected and only keying the FLEX ?

2-Does it fault with the FLEX Drive control set to zero?

3- Does it fault Drive full up and MIC attached but at zero?

4- Have you tried to reset the FLEX to factory defaults, (Setup>Database reset) and the absolute minimum configuration?

Also, change out your coax and any adapters between the Flex and the 87a – if poorly made that could be the problem.

BTW, what did Glenn suggest to you… his reply to you did not go to the group.

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Jay....Thanks for the comment. Wouldn't you think that with all the Yaesu FT-1000 MkV out there that someone has one working on a 87A. I know there are Flex 5000/Alpha 87A combinations in use.....I just don't who the operator/owners are.

Mike

1835. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 22:03:00 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1835

Jerry, Thank you. I have been digging thru the Flex Community data base and posted a question regarding TX spikes but haven't any takers yet. I will dig thru the data that you posted. Before I started running all my tests and playing with AlphaMax I did change out the coax to a well made 6 footer. I'll check out the Flex test that you listed.

Glenn sent the following:

Mike,

Remember that as soon as you touch either of the TUNE or LOAD switches to manually move those settings the amp drops out of Autotune function (AlphaMax). It must be re-enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER at the same time to restart AlphaMax. If the DEFAULT LED isn't blinking, then AlphaMax isn't running.

Glenn AE0Q

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF

As I mentioned I was aware of that need. In some cases on some frequencies that is the only way I can get the 87a to put out 500w to 1500w and keep everything in spec and not trip.

Thanks again Jerry....I'll do my homework and post results.

Mike

1836. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 22:08:26 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1826 Message: 1836

Can you borrow a peak reading meter?

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 5:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Jerry, Thank you. I have been digging thru the Flex Community data base and posted a question regarding TX spikes but haven't any takers yet. I will dig thru the data that you posted. Before I started running all my tests and playing with AlphaMax I did change out the coax to a well made 6 footer. I'll check out the Flex test that you listed.

Glenn sent the following:

Mike,

Remember that as soon as you touch either of the TUNE or LOAD switches to manually move those settings the amp drops out of Autotune function (AlphaMax). It must be re-enabled by pressing the LOAD^ and ENTER at the same time to restart AlphaMax. If the DEFAULT LED isn't blinking, then AlphaMax isn't running.

Glenn AE0Q

--

Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF

As I mentioned I was aware of that need. In some cases on some frequencies that is the only way I can get the 87a to put out 500w to 1500w and keep everything in spec and not trip.

Thanks again Jerry....I'll do my homework and post results.

Mike

1837. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 22:20:20 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1837

Jay, Yes I know of what you speak. It's like trying to wrestle an octopus in water. Oh so many variables. I strongly suspect that the band switch alignment is off but at this time I can't fix it with hyper terminal because I am running windows 7 pro and no serial ports. I do have a serial port card but not going there until I can find a way to interface the 87a with a hyper terminal look a like. Looking into Jerry's recommendations. I just didn't think that operating at a 2 or 3 w input level would cause a spike sufficient enough to bring down the Godzilla amp. The other issue that bothers me is that I can't lock any user tune settings into the band segment memories. So I put at the least 3 separate problems together 1) potential spikes, 2) autotune not responding correctly and repeatably and 3) the band segment memories not operating correctly and you got you an octopus to fight. Oh happy days.....

Mike

1838. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 22:31:27 UTC
From: jaynardone@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1838

Roger that Mike, sometimes these problems seem not solve able, good thing I am stubborn and hard headed :)

Jay

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

------ Original Message ------

From: w7pim@... [Alpha87a]
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: November 15, 2016 at 5:22 PM
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings
?

Jay, ?Yes I know of what you speak. ?It's like trying to wrestle an octopus in water. ?Oh so many variables. ?I strongly suspect that the band switch alignment is off but at this time I can't fix it with hyper terminal because I am running windows 7 pro and no serial ports. ?I do have a serial port card but not going there until I can find a way to interface the 87a with a hyper terminal look a like. Looking into Jerry's recommendations. ?I just didn't think that operating at a 2 or 3 w input level would cause a spike sufficient enough to bring down the Godzilla amp. The other issue that bothers me is that I can't lock any user tune settings into the band segment memories. So I put at the least 3 separate problems together 1) potential spikes, 2) autotune not responding correctly and repeatably and 3) the band segment memories not operating correctly and you got you an octopus to fight. ?Oh happy days.....

Mike

1839. Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 22:42:02 UTC
From: Jerry Stern
Topic: 1826 Message: 1839

Mike, without serial you are reading the default by the blinking lights on front panel? If so, stop.... you have to review all of the faults. I think the front panel only displays the last fault, so maybe other things are going on and until you get a serial hyperterminal link you won't know for sure.

73 Jerry
NY2KW

Sent from my iPad

1840. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 23:01:33 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1826 Message: 1840

Hey Mike,

I’m monitoring the discussion. Always interesting reading what the experts have to say about these problems.

I wanted to let you know that you don’t need to install the serial card that you have. You can buy a USB to serial adapter. I bought mine on eBay and it works wonderfully. Just make sure that it has the FTDI chip. It will come with a driver disk so that you can configure it to work with Win 7 (and up). I’m actually running Win10 and it works FB.

You might be able to buy one of these cables at Frys or a good electronics store but I went the eBay route.

Also, for a terminal program, I use Tera Term. It too works FB and I have read the faults and done a reset of the dreaded Fault 99. Try not to experience that one. But if you do, you *can* reset it from your PC.

--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Jay, Yes I know of what you speak. It's like trying to wrestle an octopus in water. Oh so many variables. I strongly suspect that the band switch alignment is off but at this time I can't fix it with hyper terminal because I am running windows 7 pro and no serial ports. I do have a serial port card but not going there until I can find a way to interface the 87a with a hyper terminal look a like. Looking into Jerry's recommendations. I just didn't think that operating at a 2 or 3 w input level would cause a spike sufficient enough to bring down the Godzilla amp. The other issue that bothers me is that I can't lock any user tune settings into the band segment memories. So I put at the least 3 separate problems together 1) potential spikes, 2) autotune not responding correctly and repeatably and 3) the band segment memories not operating correctly and you got you an octopus to fight. Oh happy days.....

Mike

1841. Re: Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 23:32:43 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1826 Message: 1841

Sorry you are having that issue with your FLEX 5000, Mike.
I run a FLEX 3000 and don¹t have any issues driving the Alpha to full output.

I have had so many problems in the past with patch cables that it is the first place I go anymore.
Have you switched out either the FLEX to Alpha cable to the Alpha to antenna cable?

Put an SWR bridge in between the amp and FLEX as well as one between the Amp and a dummy load.
When you increase the drive I¹ll bet something shows up on one of those meters when you hit the right power level.

Good luck.

John / K7RLD

1842. Re: Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-15 23:56:19 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1842

John, Thank you for the input. Jerry also mentioned the SWR/PWR meter placement but I do not have any at the moment but I can see that that would be a great edifier in this case. I have plans to obtain one just haven't decided how good they have to be to do a good job. It appears that a max peak feature would work great for this problem....in case there might be a TX spike on the Flex signal.

I have new coax cables between the flex and the amp and from the amp to the antenna. Good connectors, well soldered and assembled (K3LR method).

Any recommendation on meters?

Thanks again

Mike

1843. Re: Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-16 00:10:26 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 1826 Message: 1843

Mike,

This could be way off base, but make sure the Hi-Lo switch is in the Hi position. The amp won't tune properly to 1500W in the Lo position. My recollection is that there was some regulatory reason they put that switch in the amp and it should never be set to the Lo position. I'm guessing this isn't the cause of your problem, but it doesn't hurt to point it out just in case.

Another thing I would do is obtain a 1500W dummy load and see if the amp can run full power into it using the default settings (AlphaMax off). It should be able to do that unless the previous owner changed the default settings, which I think is possible via RS-232 commands or an undocumented button sequence (I've forgotten which.) If the default parameters don't work, try it with AlphaMax turned on. But bear in mind that AlphaMax requires a reasonable starting point or it can hunt for the right settings forever. Anyway, the point of the exercise is to eliminate any issues with the SteppIR, feedline or connectors.

Definitely get yourself a USB-RS232 converter with FTDI chip. You really need to be able to query the amp.

On the meaning of fault 17, it's not true that it's really fault 13. Fault 17 is what it says it is: a gain mismatch. Unfortunately, there are myriad things that can cause a gain mismatch. The problem is that the 87A measures and reports gain mismatch before measuring other sensor values that could give you a clearer idea of the cause. Dick Ehrhorn himself admitted this bug to me about 20 years ago.

I hate to speculate, but it sounds like you may have a memory corruption problem. The amp may not be able to tune the SteppIR perfectly with the default parameters - i.e., you may not get to full power without the grid current being too high - but it should be able to get a few hundred watts or even 1000 watts out without faulting. As I said, it sounds like the default parameters may have been changed. Another explanation could be that the EEPROM memory is corrupt. The fact that you don't seem to be able to save your tuning parameters suggests something may be wrong in that area.

73, Dick WC1M

1844. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-16 01:16:25 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1844

Thank you Dennis. I knew there are USB/SERIAL adapters out there...just didn't know how good they are. I know with the Flex Firewire you just got to have the right chipset or you have trouble. Thanks for that insight. I have run across "Putty" and some other terminal programs but wasn't sure if the Alpha was locked into just the hyper terminal program or if other terminal emulator programs could be used.....Thanks for a heads up on that one. New light in the tunnel....I love it.

Mike

1845. 87A frequency counter issue

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-16 03:05:35 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1845 Message: 1845

I am working on an Alpha 87A with frequency counter issues.

Originally, when confirming the actual measured frequency via the serial port, the unit was reading way off on all bands, thus causing a plethora of issues.

I removed the counter board and replaced the four ICs (U1 - U4) - two 74HC4520s and two 74HC165s.

The counter is now measuring properly, as verified via the serial port by using the HB9ZS control program.

However, I am now having an issue with 15m only. The actual frequency is being measured accurately, so the counter is now working properly, even on 15m, as confirmed via the serial port.

All other bands work fine.

I even verified that the band switch alignment is correct.

When I transmit on 15m anywhere between 20.800MHz and 21.700MHz, the amp will immediately throw a Fault 29 (unauthorized frequency). It does not matter whether if the amp is already on 15m or another band. If on another band, say 160m or 10m, and I then key the exciter on 15m, the amp will immediately Fault 29 (illegal frequency) without even trying to tune the band switch or tuning capacitors to their 15m preset positions.

As a test, into a dummy load of course, I swept the entire range from 14MHz to 24MHz or so. The amp will work fine out of band pretty much everywhere within that range. The counter reads within 20KHz of whatever frequency the exciter is dialed to. However, anywhere between 20.800MHz and 21.700MHz, it will Fault 29. Once I go above 21.700MHz or below 20.800Mhz, the amp will tune fine and do full power with no problem on the 15m band position.

I even pulled the 27256 firmware eprom and verified it against a known good image I saved from another 87A a few years ago, and the checksum is identical. I had an instance years ago on another 87A where the eprom lost some bits and caused strange things to happen, but its not the case this time.

It was suggested that maybe my exciter (Icom IC-756PRO3) was spurious on 15m. Simple enough, I checked the exciter's output on a spectrum analyzer, and it looks clean. I even tried two other transceivers to be sure, a Kenwood TS-870, and a Yaesu FT-990, and it made no difference.

My only conclusion at this time is the main processor's allowable frequency range has been corrupted. The only thing I can think of is that when the amp was operated with the failed counter, it possibly somehow corrupted the data in the processor. Without a "roadmap" as to where these ranges are saved in the hex code, I am at a standstill.

Has anyone ever seen such a failure mode? Or have some sort of documentation as to where the allowable frequency ranges are stored in the hex memory?

Eric

K2CB

1846. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-16 05:03:58 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1826 Message: 1846

Hi Mike

One last idea. Perhaps the input wattmeter is out of whack.. Others have reported failures before and fairly easy to check once you have that serial connection working:

Here are some tests.

1) With the 87A in STANDBY, transmit through the amplifier with 100 w from the radio to a dummy load (or antenna with low SWR).

2) On the PC, type EXT ON.

3) On the PC, type GPIO (radio still transmitting 100w). This command reports Grid current, Plate current, Input power, and Output power each time it is typed. It should be showing about 100w input and about 100w output. If one of those is not reading correctly, that indicates the wattmeter diodes are damaged.

This won’t create a fault as you are not in Operate mode --- just checking the wattmeter accuracy with exciter power through the sensing circuit.

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:16 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Thank you Dennis. I knew there are USB/SERIAL adapters out there...just didn't know how good they are. I know with the Flex Firewire you just got to have the right chipset or you have trouble. Thanks for that insight. I have run across "Putty" and some other terminal programs but wasn't sure if the Alpha was locked into just the hyper terminal program or if other terminal emulator programs could be used.....Thanks for a heads up on that one. New light in the tunnel....I love it.

Mike

1847. RE: [Alpha87a] Tuning - Unable to Replicate settings

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-16 12:50:45 UTC
From: w7pim@...
Topic: 1826 Message: 1847

Thanks Jerry. I am researching and ordering a cable today. After installing and getting familiar with the Alpha troubleshooting tool, I will review the fault history and conduct the diode test. Results of that will determine direction of next step. Looking into power meters.

Thank you!!!! to ALL on this thread, I am very grateful for the tremendous support. Doing my homework and will be back when I have accurately completed my review and testing.

Mike

1848. Re: 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-17 03:34:41 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1845 Message: 1848

Good News.....

Thanks to Glenn for some much needed information on the suspected eeprom data locations, I was able to determine that the hexidecimal frequency data for one of the plate choke lockout ranges had become corrupted. This resulted in the plate choke lockout range being shifted to include the valid 15m band region, rather than the correct "unsafe" frequency region of the plate choke.

Once I corrected the eeprom memory locations, the amplifier once again began working properly on 15m, as well as all other bands.

I can only guess how the data had become corrupted. Maybe the incorrect info from the counter circuit prior to repair? RF? Operator error via the serial port? Hard to tell.....

Anyway, many diagnostic hours later, a few new chips in the counter circuit, and correct data in the eeprom, and it is as good as new now!

Thank you again, Glenn.

Eric
K2CB

1849. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-17 04:04:07 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1845 Message: 1849

Hi Eric,

Congrats… I recall you have been struggling with this for many months. When you say EEPROM are you referring to the CPU eeprom locations B600-B7FF or the 27256 eprom you mentioned earlier? What does the 27256 eprom actually store?

73 Jerry

NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 10:35 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Good News.....

Thanks to Glenn for some much needed information on the suspected eeprom data locations, I was able to determine that the hexidecimal frequency data for one of the plate choke lockout ranges had become corrupted. This resulted in the plate choke lockout range being shifted to include the valid 15m band region, rather than the correct "unsafe" frequency region of the plate choke.

Once I corrected the eeprom memory locations, the amplifier once again began working properly on 15m, as well as all other bands.

I can only guess how the data had become corrupted. Maybe the incorrect info from the counter circuit prior to repair? RF? Operator error via the serial port? Hard to tell.....

Anyway, many diagnostic hours later, a few new chips in the counter circuit, and correct data in the eeprom, and it is as good as new now!

Thank you again, Glenn.

Eric
K2CB

1850. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-17 11:10:41 UTC
From: W4AAW Mike Lonneke
Topic: 1845 Message: 1850

Wow!

As an 87A owner, that is encouraging.

Congrats to you guy73 Mike W4AAW

On Nov 16, 2016 10:34 PM, "k2cb@comcast.net [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Good News.....

Thanks to Glenn for some much needed information on the suspected eeprom data locations, I was able to determine that the hexidecimal frequency data for one of the plate choke lockout ranges had become corrupted. This resulted in the plate choke lockout range being shifted to include the valid 15m band region, rather than the correct "unsafe" frequency region of the plate choke.

Once I corrected the eeprom memory locations, the amplifier once again began working properly on 15m, as well as all other bands.

I can only guess how the data had become corrupted. Maybe the incorrect info from the counter circuit prior to repair? RF? Operator error via the serial port? Hard to tell.....

Anyway, many diagnostic hours later, a few new chips in the counter circuit, and correct data in the eep rom, and it is as good as new now!

Thank you again, Glenn.

Eric
K2CB

1851. 161119. How was 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-18 23:05:00 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1851 Message: 1851

Hi Eric,

Can you please confirm if the method you used to correct the bandswitch position is as shown in the link?

http://lea.hamradio.si/~s55o/files/manuals/Alpha%2087a/87A%20Bandswitch%20Tuning.pdf

If not you can you please describe the method?

Yours sincerely

Jeff ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 12:11 AM
To: k2cb@... [Alpha87a]
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Wow!

As an 87A owner, that is encouraging.

Congrats to you guy73 Mike W4AAW

On Nov 16, 2016 10:34 PM, "k2cb@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Good News.....

Thanks to Glenn for some much needed information on the suspected eeprom data locations, I was able to determine that the hexidecimal frequency data for one of the plate choke lockout ranges had become corrupted. This resulted in the plate choke lockout range being shifted to include the valid 15m band region, rather than the correct "unsafe" frequency region of the plate choke.

Once I corrected the eeprom memory locations, the amplifier once again began working properly on 15m, as well as all other bands.

I can only guess how the data had become corrupted. Maybe the incorrect info from the counter circuit prior to repair? RF? Operator error via the serial port? Hard to tell.....

Anyway, many diagnostic hours later, a few new chips in the counter circuit, and correct data in the eep rom, and it is as good as new now!

Thank you again, Glenn.

Eric
K2CB

1852. Re: 161119. How was 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-19 03:29:50 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1851 Message: 1852

Hi jeff,

I'm not sure what you are asking - I did not have an issue with the band switch. The issue I had was with the frequency counter circuit failing, and reading the rf input frequency incorrectly. Then once I fixed the counter circuit so it read correctly, I discovered that the amp was throwing a fault 29 (unauthorized frequency) whenever I tried to switch to the 15m band.

Once I knew where to look, I discovered that the plate choke lockout range had become corrupted and changed to include the 15m range. I used Procomm Plus (a serial port terminal program) to manually read and re-write the correct values into the eeprom via the rear serial port. Same method as described in the article you reference in your link, but different memory locations for the lockout range. The memory locations referenced in the article are for the physical band switch wafer contact locations, whereas my issue was with the "restricted" frequency range settings that the microprocessor references when determining whether or not to allow transmission.

Eric
K2CB

1853. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 161119. How was 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-11-19 04:09:22 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1851 Message: 1853

Hi Eric, can you tell us the memory locations that became corrupted and what you changed them to?

73 Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 10:30 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 161119. How was 87A frequency counter issue - resolved!

Hi jeff,

I'm not sure what you are asking - I did not have an issue with the band switch. The issue I had was with the frequency counter circuit failing, and reading the rf input frequency incorrectly. Then once I fixed the counter circuit so it read correctly, I discovered that the amp was throwing a fault 29 (unauthorized frequency) whenever I tried to switch to the 15m band.

Once I knew where to look, I discovered that the plate choke lockout range had become corrupted and changed to include the 15m range. I used Procomm Plus (a serial port terminal program) to manually read and re-write the correct values into the eeprom via the rear serial port. Same method as described in the article you reference in your link, but different memory locations for the lockout range. The memory locations referenced in the article are for the physical band switch wafer contact locations, whereas my issue was with the "restricted" frequency range settings that the microprocessor references when determining whether or not to allow transmission.

Eric

K2CB

1854. 160M High VSWR from Alpha 87a to radio

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-12-08 13:03:44 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 1854 Message: 1854

Good morning and a real weird issue for the group. This group has had great ideas. Amp is working perfectly 1500W out key down all bands except appears to have High VSWR input to amp mainly on 160M and 80M although I am able to get the amp to work OK on 80 by re-tuning off the default setting full power but the high input VSWR is bothering me on 75M even though the amp is putting out full power. On 160M I can get the amp to go full power with quite a bit of playing around and even in the Bird 1000 Watt Dummy load it still does not appear to be right.

Everyone is telling me the amplifier is old and to move on but I just love this amp. The Error codes in the HB9
remote program are as follows:
SFAULT LOG = 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17

HFAULT LOG = 24 21 24 21 21 24 21 21

I have tried a 1:1 balun between the radio and the amp as well as changing cable lengths and also doing the K6FG fix for the Bandswitch fault moving the 160M and 80M HEX numbers as suggested on 160m and 80 M by 2 either way which didn't seem to fix it. Examining the coil that switches in on 80M and 160M the relay does engage to put the coil in the circuit on 80 and 160M.

The only adjustment I remember was made recently was the adjustable C9 Capacitor on the input Wattmeter board. Would that adjustment cause this problem? It is difficult adjustment to get at?

Glenn had mentioned the easiest way to adjust the input VSWR is squeezing the turns on the inductor for that band. I see the input coils but it looks like turns on a core? I may be looking at the wrong coils? Are we looking at L9 or L8 on the input matching board? That also looks like it is difficult to do.

Would love to get the amp working on 160M for the STEW Perry.

Any thoughts from the group?

Thanks and Happy Holidays to all!
Barry

N2BJ

email direct is n2bj@comcast.net

1855. Re: [Alpha87a] 160M High VSWR from Alpha 87a to radio

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2016-12-08 17:11:38 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 1854 Message: 1855

Barry,
Occasionally I have seen this issue on 160m also,
but I don't get a fault indication. The amp
"operates" with no fault showing, but the input
VSWR is very poor. In my case I think it's due
to slight misalignment in the wafer switch on the
input matching network in the tube box (driven by
the main bandswitch). I assume if the wafer is
not making contact fully I am still getting some
capacitive coupling through there and so "some"
drive signal is available and the amp does amplify, but won't go to full power.

It happens only sporadically in my case. If I
recall correctly, it happens when I go from say
10m or 15m, to 160m, but I discovered it does NOT
happen when the amp switches from 80m to
160m. It might be related to momentum or slight
overtravel in one direction, because I have
always been able to clear it by manually moving
to 80m position first, then back to 160m from the
80m position. I haven't taken the time to do the
alignment procedure. I don't remember if there
is a coupler between the bandswitch shaft and
the input wafer shaft. If one exists, perhaps
that's another place to do a very slight mechanical tweak of the shaft.

A friend of mine had the similar issue and he did
clear it up by doing the bandswitch alignment
(and thus presumably the input matching wafer at the same time).

--Glenn K6NA

At 05:03 AM 12/8/2016, you wrote:
>
>
>Good morning and a real weird issue for the
>group. This group has had great ideas. Amp is
>working perfectly 1500W out key down all bands
>except appears to have High VSWR input to amp
>mainly on 160M and 80M although I am able to get
>the amp to work OK on 80 by re-tuning off the
>default setting full power but the high input
>VSWR is bothering me on 75M even though the amp
>is putting out full power. On 160M I can get the
>amp to go full power with quite a bit of playing
>around and even in the Bird 1000 Watt Dummy load

>it still does not appear to be right.
>
>
>Everyone is telling me the amplifier is old and
>to move on but I just love this amp. The Error codes in the HB9
>
>remote program are as follows:
>
>SFAULT LOG = 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17
>
>HFAULT LOG = 24 21 24 21 21 24 21 21
>
>
>I have tried a 1:1 balun between the radio and
>the amp as well as changing cable lengths and
>also doing the K6FG fix for the Bandswitch fault
>moving the 160M and 80M HEX numbers as suggested
>on 160m and 80 M by 2 either way which didn't
>seem to fix it. Examining the coil that switches
>in on 80M and 160M the relay does engage to put
>the coil in the circuit on 80 and 160M.
>
>
>The only adjustment I remember was made recently
>was the adjustable C9 Capacitor on the input
>Wattmeter board. Would that adjustment cause
>this problem? It is difficult adjustment to get at?
>
>
>Glenn had mentioned the easiest way to adjust
>the input VSWR is squeezing the turns on the
>inductor for that band. I see the input coils
>but it looks like turns on a core? I may be
>looking at the wrong coils? Are we looking at L9
>or L8 on the input matching board? That also looks like it is difficult to do.
>
>
>Would love to get the amp working on 160M for the STEW Perry.
>
>
>Any thoughts from the group?
>
>
>Thanks and Happy Holidays to all!
>
>Barry
>
>
>N2BJ
>

>
>email direct is n2bj@...
>
>
>
>
>

1856. Re: [Amps] Alpha 87A Fault 17

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-01-02 01:49:39 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1856 Message: 1856

Hello Charlie,

It sounds like your troubleshooting skills are up to the task, but if you need the input of an engineer very familiar with the Alpha 78A, I wholeheartedly recommend Glenn Pladsen (AE0Q) gm5bkc@.... Glen's patient and knowledgeable assistance helped me through an issue with my 87A a couple of yeas ago. He is often eager to years of 87A experience with other 87A operators in the Yahoo Alpha 87A group Alpha87a@...m. Glen's depth of experience with the 87A is a valuable asset to the Alpha community.

Best of luck with your amp, and throughout the new year.

Larry
WB6BBB

On Sun, 1 Jan 2017 16:39:22 +0000, Charlie Young <weeksmgr@hotmail.com> wrote:

>Bruce, thanks for the thoughtful response.
>
>
>Yes, I was incorrect about the wattmeters being the same. Last night at dinner I thought about the CT ratios and checked that after coming home, but missed the difference in the voltage divider resistors after the diodes. Thanks for pointing that out.
>
>
>I have two pairs of tubes, 1990 date code and 2012 date code. The current condition of these tubes is unknown to me but the 2012 pair was being used by my friend. He acquired the amp from a SK estate a few years ago. He has not tried the 1990 pair in the amplifier.
>
>
>The first thing I did after fixing the fault 1 problem that would not let the amp go into operate mode was to run the amp with HV on the tubes and no RF drive. Yes, I have checked the B+ path from the tube plate back to the HV board. All 4 tubes were static tested with HV and no problems. HV was set for the high position and appears normal.
>
>
>Next, I keyed the amp with a footswitch , still with no drive, and tested the various bias voltages to make sure they were proper and that the amp was going from receive mode to transmit mode. All appeared normal. No faults.
>
>
>Next, I used the computer terminal to monitor the Ip and HV in the transmit and receive state. 0 Ip on receive and 60 ma
>
>Ip idle current in transmit, with no drive. HV drops a bit in transmit from the standby state due to the load from the tubes pulling idle current. This all looked normal to me.

Both pairs of tubes were tested in this mode with the same idle current result.
>
>
>At this point I was ready for RF, or so I thought. Hooked the FT5K to the amp, and the antenna switch matrix to the amp output.
>
>
>First up, with the amp in the operate mode, I confirmed the receive was normal with no attenuation. The rx pin diodes were working.
>
>
>The amp was on 17M. I put my very low SWR 20M yagi on it with the RF output on the rig set all the way down, about 10W. The first dit caused the amp to go to 20M, and both the tune and load capacitors moved to a preset position.
>
>The next dit caused a fault 17 with red plate led indication, and reversion to standby from operate.
>
>
>If the amp is on a different band from the rf drive source, it stays in standby until retuning/band change is done. It does not go to operate mode until the band and tuning have been reset.
>
>
>After the fault 17 on 20M, I tested the amp on some other bands, including 80/40/30 and 17 meters. All of these antennas have very low SWR. With about 10 watts drive, the result was fault 17 on each band on the 2nd dit, after the retuning/band change was complete.
>
>
>Next, I used the computer terminal program to communicate with the CPU and read the input and output wattmeters with the GPIO command, with the amp in standby. The input wattmeter appeared to be accurate and reads approximately the same power as the exciter. The output wattmeter reads consistently low, checked at drive levels of minimum to 100W from the FT5K. For example, with the rig set for 100W, the input wattmeter read 103 and the output wattmeter read 79, a 23.3% disparity. With reduced drive, the input wattmeter read 19 with output at 13, a 31.5% difference.
>
>
>Last night, on the microprocessor board, I measured the DC voltage output from both the input and output wattmeter, directly at the plug. With minimum drive from the transmitter, somewhere in the approximate 10W range, the output wattmeter read .13V and the input wattmeter read .49V. Because of the different CT ratio and, as you pointed out, the different output voltage divider resistance, these readings were expected to be significantly different from each wattmeter.
>
>
>The next test was to disconnect the microprocessor board loads from the wattmeter outputs to see what, if any, loading effects the microprocessor board electronics might be having on the voltage readings from the wattmeters. With drive level untouched, the output wattmeter voltage remained completely unchanged at .13V but the input wattmeter voltage increased to .55 from .49 volts with the microprocessor board disconnected.

>
>
>We know the input wattmeter is approximately accurate compared to the drive level, so the increased voltage with no load is likely the norm. Perhaps the fact the output wattmeter was unchanged from load to no load conditions is the sign of an anomaly with the op amp circuit on the microprocessor board. Not sure.
>
>
>I am going to do some more testing. The test setup is a 1KW 50 ohm dummy load on the amp output, to verify the wattage levels. I will test the wattmeter output voltage levels at the microprocessor board for various drive levels, from about 10 to 200 watts and see how the power ratio holds with the internal computer measurement. I will repeat these tests with the microprocessor board disconnected to see what the internal load does to the wattmeter output voltage.
>
>I will attempt to measure A/D:0 and A/D1 voltage levels and see what that shows.
>
>
>No, I have not verified the input circuit is OK, other than to check and makes sure there is continuity in the RF path through the input band switch. I would like to get around this wattmeter ratio question first if possible, because we know if the difference between input and output power is too great, it triggers the fault 17. We just don't know how great this ratio difference must be per the design of the amp.
>
>
>73 Charlie N8RR
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>_____
>From: bruce@bubble.org <bruce@...> on behalf of Bruce W2SE <W2SE@...>
>Sent: Sunday, January 1, 2017 2:24 AM
>To: Charlie Young
>Subject: Re: [Amps] Alpha 87A Fault 17
>
>
>
>On 31-Dec-16 23:25, Charlie Young wrote:
>
>Happy New Year Bruce.
>
>Ditto
>
>

>The 87A has two built in wattmeters, one on the input and one on the output. Only the output wattmeter reads on the front panel LED display. The input wattmeter is used for the CPU to monitor the amplifier gain. If the CPU does not see an output level it believes is commensurate with the input level, it immediately puts the amp into a fault condition (17).
>
>
>As soon as the first dit is transmitted, the amp faults giving a low gain fault 17 indication. So, I have yet to make RF with it that can be measured.
>
>
>The two built in wattmeters can be read with an external computer terminal plugged into the CPU, with the amp in standby. This monitor says the output wattmeter is reading 23% less than the input wattmeter, with 100 watts applied.
>
>The wattmeter transformer ratios are different as are the voltage dividers after the D1 & D2 1N5711 rectifier diodes for each wattmeter. A/D is done by the CPU (2 multiplexed analog inputs). Software makes all the decisions.
>
>Try again with 50W and see what the percentage difference is as reported on the external PC interface async serial link.
>
>Can you measure the DCV outputs on the microprocessor Analog I/O board in standby with 100W and 50W drive? microprocessor schematic sheet 6 right side of page for the output signals: A/D0 and A/D1 ?
>I think that you may have some of this data already.
>
>I can think of one way to dummy-up the input and/or out-watts voltage to help you figure out the ratios for fault 17 but it will mean a temporary circuit mod with a small pot.
>
>
>
>By design, the amp will kick out on fault 17 if there is too great a disparity in what the CPU thinks the readings should be. So far, I have been unable to find the factory parameter that is programmed in to trigger a wattmeter related fault 17.
>
>Certainly OutWatts > InWatts for normal and correct operation. It has to be a ratio since input drive can vary.
>I would expect #17 generation is disabled (in software) during tuning.
>I would guess that #17 should expect to see an A/D0 : A/D1 voltage ratio that equates to at least 6 to 10db amp gain, that's just a guess. Anything less is either: soft tubes, bias issue, low HV, input issue (which you have probably ruled out), output tuning/matching issue. and of course wattmeter issue. I have no idea what this means for the A/D0 and A/D1 voltage ratios and values which would require some testing.
>
>With the amp turned off and unplugged, and the HV bled down and fully discharged, have you tested continuity between the HV supply and the plate caps? (this tests DC continuity of the chokes feeding HV into the plate circuit, which the amp does not measure). Be sure to check the HV R34 10 ohm 25W glitch resistor.
>
>

>
>
>So far, I have run 100W through the amp in standby with a dummy load on the output, and measured the voltage output directly at each of the two wattmeters. The wattmeters are
>
>NOT
>
>identical but fed with a different ratio current transformer on each input. I have run the calculations and they confirm the readings on the output wattmeter are consistently low compared to what they should be. This confirms what the computer monitoring shows.
>
>
>The amp does this on every band.
>
>
>I am about ready to pull the output wattmeter board and check all the components.
>
>
>Fixing the wattmeter may not solve the fault 17 issue, but in order to rule out the wattmeter as a problem, I have to get it reading up to normal level. So far, no one has been able to tell me how much difference in wattage reading will trigger the CPU fault.
>
>It has to be in an algorithm in the software for the CPU.
>
>If you want to brain-storm via Echolink or telephone let me know. I like puzzles.
>
>
>73
>Bruce W2SE
>
>
>
>
>I am optimistic we will find the problem, but the fault 17 may or not be the wattmeter. It certainly could be.
>
>
>I will post on the Amps Reflector what is found.
>
>
>Thanks for the response.
>
>
>73 Charlie N8RR
>
>
>_____
>From: bruce@...<mailto:bruce@...> <bruce@...><mailto:bruce@...> on behalf of Bruce W2SE <W2SE@...><mailto:W2SE@...t>
>Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2016 7:40 PM

>To: Charlie Young
>Subject: Re: [Amps] Alpha 87A Fault 17
>
>Hi Charlie,
>
>I haven't worked on an 87a yet but ...
>Just a thought: Did you check/compare the amps' power output to a known good wattmeter connected to the 87A's output?
>Both standby and operate.
>
>Did you get any key-down current and voltage measurements during key-down that confirm that you are getting normal output power?
>
>If you can verify normal power output, the first place that I would look would be the output wattmeter circuit.
>
>Good luck.
>
>73
>Bruce W2SE
>
>_____
>Amps mailing list
>Amps@contesting.com
>http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/amps

1857. 87A No Power Out

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-10 06:06:49 UTC
From: randyholl@...
Topic: 1857 Message: 1857

My 87A has suddenly stopped putting out any power on any band. It seems like the unit is not going into operate mode. There are no fault codes displayed, no grid current or RF Output power indicated, and the RF Output power is a direct reflection of the input power from the transceiver, i.e. it looks just like it would in standby, even though the switch was thrown into operate and the OPR LED is lit. The HV bar graph is indicating 2.6 KV in both the stand-by and operate switch positions.

I have been using the unit with the DDUTIL utility program, but that is no longer operative either. While it seemed unlikely, I wondered if the DDUTIL program had somehow put the amp into standby and caused it to stick there regardless of the switch setting. However, I shut down DDUTIL, powered down the amp, disconnected the RS-232 interface just to be sure that this was not a factor. Unfortunately, powering the amp back up with the RS-232 disconnected resulted in the same behavior.

There is nothing in the 87A Operating Manual that describes this condition and I am at a bit of a loss to figure out what is going on. Has anyone else encountered this situation or have any thoughts as to what my be causing the problem?

Randy, K0FA

1858. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A No Power Out

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-10 15:33:05 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1857 Message: 1858

Hi Randy,

In the absence of Faults, I would check your Key line to make sure it is functioning from your transceiver to 87A .

If the Key line is not at fault, the 87a Molex connectors are well known to oxidize and cause weird operational glitches. Very easy fix to unplug all of the connectors and give them some Deoxit to the terminal pins and exercise the connector a few times. Make sure you double check that HV is shorted out with cover off – I don’t trust the HV crowbars all the time.

Next, if the input and output relays fail for any reasons, you can still find yourself in Standby even with the Operate LED lit up. I will look at the schematic and see if any other obvious ideas pop up and get back to you.

Another possibility, though I don’t recall it happening without a Fault displayed, are your TX pin diodes. Lots of stuff about checking and replacing these pin diodes if you google. You can buy the TX Pin diodes now from Verical (Arrow) for about $90 for a pair.

Keep us posted on your progress

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 1:07 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] 87A No Power Out

My 87A has suddenly stopped putting out any power on any band. It seems like the unit is not going into operate mode. There are no fault codes displayed, no grid current or RF Output power indicated, and the RF Output power is a direct reflection of the input power from the transceiver, i.e. it looks just like it would in standby, even though the switch was thrown into operate and the OPR LED is lit. The HV bar graph is indicating 2.6 KV in both the stand-by and operate switch positions.

I have been using the unit with the DDUTIL utility program, but that is no longer operative either. While it seemed unlikely, I wondered if the DDUTIL program had somehow put the amp into standby and caused it to stick there regardless of the switch setting. However, I shut down DDUTIL, powered down the amp, disconnected the RS-232 interface just to be sure that this was not a factor. Unfortunately, powering the amp back up with the RS-232 disconnected resulted in the same behavior.

There is nothing in the 87A Operating Manual that describes this condition and I am at a bit of a loss to figure out what is going on. Has anyone else encountered this situation or have any thoughts as to what my be causing the problem?

Randy, K0FA

1859. TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 15:24:12 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1859 Message: 1859

I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more. Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.

https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830

I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1860. RE: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 15:43:50 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1859 Message: 1860

Jerry,

Incredible find for $30 ea. in the “D” case style – and from a reputable semiconductor supplier. Just ordered a half-dozen. Shipping only $4.00 USPS First Class Rate.

Paul, W9AC

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more. Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.

https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830

I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1861. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 17:34:49 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1859 Message: 1861

Many thanks, Jerry. I placed an order for three as insurance.
Best regards,
Larry
WB6BBB

On Sat, 11 Feb 2017 10:24:12 -0500, "'Jerry O. Stern' jsternmd@...
[Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more. Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.
>
>
>
>https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830
>
>
>
>I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
>
>
>
>73
>
>Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
>
>
>
>

1862. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 18:04:51 UTC
From: George K
Topic: 1859 Message: 1862

I purchased 2 of the PIN diodes a few years back from Alpha. I also bought a spare front panel that I was going to replace my dinged one but didn't get to it yet, hi.

Since I bought the 87A used from Alpha I have had no problems. Oh, it also is a great amp for my remote operation while I'm in Florida dodging the snow.

George W2YJ

On 2/11/2017 12:34 PM, Larry Dighera larry@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
>
>
> Many thanks, Jerry. I placed an order for three as insurance.
> Best regards,
> Larry
> WB6BBB
>
> On Sat, 11 Feb 2017 10:24:12 -0500, "'Jerry O. Stern' jsternmd@...
> [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is
> selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I
> last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had
> thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted
> to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a
> few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more.
> Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if
> you needs only 1 or 2.
> >
> >
> >
> >https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830
> >
> >
> >
> >I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
> >
> >
> >
> >73
> >
> >Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
> >
> >

> >
> >
>
>

--
George K

1863. RE: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 20:49:52 UTC
From: Paul Christensen
Topic: 1859 Message: 1863

RichardsonRF, one of the most expensive commercial RF parts suppliers (and also an Arrow company like Vertical), just dropped the price of the UM4006D diodes to $24.75 ea. Wow. And, it appears you can purchase in SINGLE quantities while the supply lasts.

https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=855450

Anyone wanting to negotiate the Vertical pricing down to Richardson's prior to order processing on Monday has my 100% blessing!

Paul, W9AC

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more. Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.

https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830

I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1864. RE: [Alpha87a] 87A No Power Out

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-11 21:00:51 UTC
From: randyholl@...
Topic: 1857 Message: 1864

My thanks to all that responded, what great support in this group!! Special thanks to Jerry, as his suggestion on the key line pointed me in the right direction to fix the issue. The key line cable was good and connected correctly, but as I re-read the manual regarding usage of the key lines, I decided I better check the SmartSDR software to make sure the key jack going to the amp was still configured correctly. Sure enough, that is where the problem was. The TX1 line that goes to the amp had somehow gotten disabled. I have not touched this setting since I set the radio up a year ago, so not sure how it happened, but glad it fixed the problem and the amp is now functioning correctly again :) Thanks again to all that offered assistance!

1865. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-12 17:16:02 UTC
From: Rick Tavan
Topic: 1859 Message: 1865

My 87A shows no signs of PIN diode problems but having spares on hand seems prudent. I'm away from that QTH and my manual. How many UM4006D are there in the 87A?

/Rick N6XI

On 2/11/17 12:49 PM, 'Paul Christensen' w9ac@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

RichardsonRF, one of the most expensive commercial RF parts suppliers (and also an Arrow company like Vertical), just dropped the price of the UM4006D diodes to $24.75 ea. Wow. And, it appears you can purchase in SINGLE quantities while the supply lasts.

https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=855450

Anyone wanting to negotiate the Vertical pricing down to Richardson's prior to order processing on Monday has my 100% blessing!

Paul, W9AC

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

I just found out that Verical (division of Arrow Eletronics) is selling the Microsemi brand of the UM4006D for only $30 each. When I last bought a pair they were almost twice that price and they had thousands in stock, now they have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to stock up now is the time before they run out. I called Microsemi a few years back and they were not sure if they would manufacture more. Verical has a minimum order of three so you may want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.

https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830

I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1866. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-13 02:16:15 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1859 Message: 1866

Two.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <rick@...> wrote :

My 87A shows no signs of PIN diode problems but having spares on hand seems prudent. I'm away from that QTH and my manual. How many UM4006D are there in the 87A?

/Rick N6XI

On 2/11/17 12:49 PM, 'Paul Christensen' w9ac@... mailto:w9ac@... [Alpha87a] wrote:

RichardsonRF, one of the most expensive commercial RF parts suppliers (and also an Arrow company like Vertical), just dropped the price of the UM4006D diodes to $24.75 ea. Wow. And, it appears you can purchase in SINGLE quantities while the supply lasts.

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Anyone wanting to negotiate the Vertical pricing down to Richardson's prior to order processing on Monday has my 100% blessing!

Paul, W9AC

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

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https://www.verical.com/pd/microsemi-pin-um4006d-660830

I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.

73
Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

1867. New file uploaded to Alpha87a

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-13 20:19:49 UTC
From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 1710 Message: 1867

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the Alpha87a
group.

File : /Repairing an Alpha 87a for a Friend.pdf
Uploaded by : s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>
Description : A blog by Charlie, N8RR repairing 87a.

You can access this file at the URL:
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/files/Repairing%20an%20Alpha%2087a%20for%20a%20Friend.pdf

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
https://help.yahoo.com/kb/index?page=content&y=PROD_GRPS&locale=en_US&id=SLN15398

Regards,

s52xray <tadej.arcon@...>

1868. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-13 20:21:25 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1859 Message: 1868

Hello Paul,

Thank you for this updated information. I have sent my match-price request via e-mail to Vertical today. I'll post the response, if any, I receive.

No blessing required. :-)

Best regards,
Larry
WB6BBB

On Sat, 11 Feb 2017 15:49:52 -0500, "'Paul Christensen' w9ac@...
[Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>RichardsonRF, one of the most expensive commercial RF parts suppliers (and also an Arrow company like Vertical), just dropped the price of the UM4006D diodes to $24.75 ea. Wow. And, it appears you can purchase in SINGLE quantities while the supply lasts.
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>https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=855450
>
>Anyone wanting to negotiate the Vertical pricing down to Richardson's prior to order processing on Monday has my 100% blessing!
>
>Paul, W9AC
>
>From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
>Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years
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>I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
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>73
>
>Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
>

1869. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-13 21:01:38 UTC
From: Sante - IK0HBN
Topic: 1859 Message: 1869

Hi Larry,
just a question: if RichardsonRF, sells them at
24 USD each, why ask for a discount to Vertical?
Do you think Vertical is more serious? I'm also
interested in purchasing a spare pair of Pin
diodes even if in 23 years of work, my 87a never
had a fault...I cross my fingers for sure..hi
Ciao for now
Sante

At 21:21 13/02/2017, you wrote:
>
>
>
>Hello Paul,
>
>Thank you for this updated information. I have sent my match-price request via
>e-mail to Vertical today. I'll post the response, if any, I receive.
>
>No blessing required. :-)
>
>Best regards,
>Larry
>WB6BBB
>
>On Sat, 11 Feb 2017 15:49:52 -0500, "'Paul Christensen' w9ac@...
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> >https://www.richardsonrfpd.com/Pages/Product-Details.aspx?productId=855450
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> >Anyone wanting to negotiate the Vertical
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> processing on Monday has my 100% blessing!
> >
> >Paul, W9AC
> >
> >From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> >Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:24 AM
> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com

> >Subject: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years
> >
> >I just found out that Verical (division of
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> price and they had thousands in stock, now they
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> called Microsemi a few years back and they were
> not sure if they would manufacture more.
> Verical has a minimum order of three so you may
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> >I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
> >
> >73
> >
> >Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
> >
>

1870. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-14 12:49:24 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1859 Message: 1870

On Mon, 13 Feb 2017 22:01:38 +0100, "Sante - IK0HBN ik0hbn@...
[Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Hi Larry,
>just a question: if RichardsonRF, sells them at
>24 USD each, why ask for a discount to Vertical?

The last thing I wanted was two orders. I contacted Vertical to see if my
order was still cancelable.

>Do you think Vertical is more serious?

I think they are as serious (and greedy) as Wall Street bankers. :-)

Here is the response I received from Verical:

Dear Larry ,

Sorry, your order was released.
We can't revise price now.
Before you place order, you can confirm your target price with our sales.

Thanks!

Sincerely, Salina | Verical Support Team
Verical appreciates your business and partnership ☐ please feel free to
share your feedback on the level of service provided to you today. Please
send your comments to feedback@... - Thank you.

>I'm also interested in purchasing a spare pair of Pin
>diodes even if in 23 years of work, my 87a never
>had a fault...I cross my fingers for sure..hi
>Ciao for now
>Sante

The ETO Alpha 87A is a terrific amp, I'd sure hate to have the station be
without it. It's always good to have spare parts at hand. I searched for
months for a replacement high-voltage bridge rectifier replacement without
success. I finally had to pay RF Concepts $150 price, and was happy to be
price gouged in the end.

If anyone knows of a lower price available for a HV bridge, please post the
information here.

Best regards,
Larry
WB6BBB

>At 21:21 13/02/2017, you wrote:
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>>Hello Paul,
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>>Thank you for this updated information. I have sent my match-price request via
>>e-mail to Verical today. I'll post the response, if any, I receive.
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>> >To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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>> have only ~ 240 left. If you ever wanted to
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>> called Microsemi a few years back and they were
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>> Verical has a minimum order of three so you may
>> want to partner up if you needs only 1 or 2.
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>> >I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
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```
>> >73
>> >
>> >Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
>> >
>>
```

1871. Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-24 17:56:39 UTC
From: JAMES HEYE
Topic: 1859 Message: 1871

I ordered a pair of pin diodes from Richardson last week. They arrived in 4 days. Total cost including tax and shipping was $74.
I don't need them now but I'm glad to have them in the event I ever need them.

Jim,K5WLQ
Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 14, 2017, at 6:49 AM, Larry Dighera larry@kj6yvt.com [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> On Mon, 13 Feb 2017 22:01:38 +0100, "Sante - IK0HBN ik0hbn@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> >Hi Larry,
> >just a question: if RichardsonRF, sells them at
> >24 USD each, why ask for a discount to Vertical?
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> >Do you think Vertical is more serious?
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> Here is the response I received from Verical:
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> Dear Larry ,
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> Sorry, your order was released.
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> Before you place order, you can confirm your target price with our sales.
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> Thanks!
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> Sincerely, Salina | Verical Support Team
> Verical appreciates your business and partnership – please feel free to share your feedback on the level of service provided to you today. Please send your comments to feedback@... - Thank you.
>
> >I'm also interested in purchasing a spare pair of Pin
> >diodes even if in 23 years of work, my 87a never
> >had a fault...I cross my fingers for sure..hi
> >Ciao for now
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>

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> without it. It's always good to have spare parts at hand. I searched for
> months for a replacement high-voltage bridge rectifier replacement without
> success. I finally had to pay RF Concepts $150 price, and was happy to be
> price gouged in the end.
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> If anyone knows of a lower price available for a HV bridge, please post the
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> Best regards,
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> >>Thank you for this updated information. I have sent my match-price request via
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> >> Arrow company like Vertical), just dropped the
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> >> >73
> >> >
> >> >Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
> >> >
> >>
>

1872. FS Alpha Digital Antenna Selector (DAS)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-25 03:04:02 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 1872 Message: 1872

I have a new ETO Alpha Digital Antenna Selector. There are one or two tiny scratches on the top case toward the rear ...very minor. Pic on request. $225.00 shipped w/tracking to the lower 48.

Paypal preferred.

73 and thanks for reading,

Darrell AB2E ab2e@...

1873. RE: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-25 03:35:54 UTC
From: Dennis Younker NE6I
Topic: 1859 Message: 1873

Ordered a pair myself tonight. Good to have. I think their shipping cost is high. $15.95 for UPS ground. Sheesh. No doubt that includes some handling but does anyone do that anymore? These can go via USPS first class, or for tracking purposes, Priority Mail, for much less.

Does anyone have any good recommendations for spare tubes?

PS, thanks for the tip on the diodes. Definitely good to have in the parts bin just in case.

--Dennis NE6I

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 9:57 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] TX Pin Diodes at Lowest Price in Years

I ordered a pair of pin diodes from Richardson last week. They arrived in 4 days. Total cost including tax and shipping was $74.

I don't need them now but I'm glad to have them in the event I ever need them.

Jim,K5WLQ
Sent from my iPhone

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Verical appreciates your business and partnership – please feel free to share your feedback on the level of service provided to you today. Please send your comments to feedback@... - Thank you.

>I'm also interested in purchasing a spare pair of Pin
>diodes even if in 23 years of work, my 87a never
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>Ciao for now
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If anyone knows of a lower price available for a HV bridge, please post the information here.

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Larry
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>>On Sat, 11 Feb 2017 15:49:52 -0500, "'Paul Christensen' w9ac@...
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>> >I have no relationship to Verical or Arrow.
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>> >73
>> >
>> >Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)
>> >
>>

1874. Re: [Alpha87a] FS Alpha Digital Antenna Selector (DAS)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-26 02:03:33 UTC
From: kd1ct@tds.net
Topic: 1872 Message: 1874

Thanks for the pics, Darrell.
Can you send by USPS Priority Mail?
We live in the middle of nowhere and UPS and FedEx just leave us a note
and we end up traveling to their depot which is a royal pain in the butt (an hour
each way)
My local PO just puts a note in my mail box and I drive two miles to the PO
and collect the Priority Box.
So, if you can send USPS Priority Mail I'll have it.
Will check my email first thing in the am and if all is ok will send payment
via Paypal.
Thanks,
Bob (KD1CT)

----- Original Message -----

From: "AB2E Darrell ab2e@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 10:04:02 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] FS Alpha Digital Antenna Selector (DAS)

I have a new ETO Alpha Digital Antenna Selector. There are one or two tiny scratches on the top case toward the rear ...very minor. Pic on request. $225.00 shipped w/tracking to the lower 48.

Paypal preferred.

73 and thanks for reading,

Darrell AB2E ab2e@...

1875. Re: FS Alpha Digital Antenna Selector (DAS)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-26 02:18:04 UTC
From: AB2E Darrell
Topic: 1872 Message: 1875

Hi Bob,

FB. Yes I will send Priority Mail USPS. I usually use that since it is reliable and a good deal compared to UPS and FedEx.

Paypal is great. My ID is ab2e@...

Your address is fine in qrz.com?

Thanks and 73,

Darrell AB2E

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> on behalf of 'kd1ct@...'
kd1ct@tds.net [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2017 9:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] FS Alpha Digital Antenna Selector (DAS)

Thanks for the pics, Darrell.
Can you send by USPS Priority Mail?
We live in the middle of nowhere and UPS and FedEx just leave us a note
and we end up traveling to their depot which is a royal pain in the butt (an hour
each way)
My local PO just puts a note in my mail box and I drive two miles to the PO
and collect the Priority Box.
So, if you can send USPS Priority Mail I'll have it.
Will check my email first thing in the am and if all is ok will send payment
via Paypal.
Thanks,
Bob (KD1CT)

From: "AB2E Darrell ab2e@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
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73 and thanks for reading,

Darrell AB2E ab2e@...

1876. FS: Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 13:26:17 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1876 Message: 1876

Hello group,

I have in excellent conditions Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition for sale on eBay. If anyone is interested can have a look at: http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/ALPHA-87a-OMEGA-Limited-edition-HF-amplifier-/201836697177?hash=item2efe679659:g:Gb4AAOSw4A5YtVcr#shpCntId

73s, Tadej S52X

1877. RE: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 14:23:35 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1876 Message: 1877

I have a 87A ETO and never heard of an Omega limited edition?

What does this have that my 87A doesn't have?

Thanks

George K w2yj

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] FS: Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Hello group,

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http://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/ALPHA-87a-OMEGA-Limited-edition-HF-amplifier-/201836697177?hash=item2efe679659:g:Gb4AAOSw4A5YtVcr#shpCntId

73s, Tadej S52X

1878. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 15:34:05 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1876 Message: 1878

Last 20 units build were limited edition. Gold plated pi filter, extra fun installed, different front panel.

http://qsl.net/na1a/Alpha%2087A%20Omega/

Tadej s52x

> On 28. feb. 2017, at 15:23, 'George' goofyham@rochester.rr.com [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
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> 73s, Tadej S52X
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1879. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 16:27:55 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1876 Message: 1879

Gosh now I feel slighted, hi.

My 87A is run remotely over the internet for 4 months of the year. It works great and is a great amp that was designed in the early 90’s. It was way ahead of it’s time!

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:34 AM
To: Alpha87a@...m
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

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http://qsl.net/na1a/Alpha%2087A%20Omega/

Tadej s52x

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73s, Tadej S52X

1880. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 16:51:51 UTC
From: Tadej Arcon
Topic: 1876 Message: 1880

Definitely, Dich Ehrhorn was the man!

Tadej Arcon
Sent from my Iphone

> On 28 Feb 2017, at 17:27, 'George' goofyham@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
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1881. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 17:13:58 UTC
From: JAY NARDONE
Topic: 1876 Message: 1881

Additional fun?? Im all about additional fun....:)

Jay, W3SCA

> On February 28, 2017 at 11:51 AM "Tadej Arcon tadej.arcon@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
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> > Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition
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1882. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-02-28 17:26:09 UTC
From: Cyrus Turner
Topic: 1876 Message: 1882
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I am offering up my Alpha 87A that has been completely gone through and had all factory updates and upgrades (Alpha Max) done by Alpha. I have a bound manual as well as the cd disc.Full Legal with just 35w drive. Have both set of boxes but don't ask me to ship this amp.I have had to deal with too many horror stories with UPS and Fed Ex to chance them destroying it. Pick up only in 77327 or close so you will save the shipping cost. $3200 cash no Pay Pal, trades or deals. Also have 2 Pin Diodes as spares. Nothing wrong with the ones installed at Alpha just have these as spares.
 ==========[Howdy from the Lil shack on the prairie W5DXE "DiXiE Radio"]==========

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:14 AM, "JAY NARDONE jaynardone@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  Additional fun?? Im all about additional fun....:)

Jay, W3SCA

On February 28, 2017 at 11:51 AM "Tadej Arcon tadej.arcon@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Definitely, Dich Ehrhorn was the man!

Tadej ArconSent from my Iphone
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 73s, Tadej S52X

1883. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a Omega - Limited edition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-01 05:07:31 UTC
From: Richard Kourey
Topic: 1876 Message: 1883

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blockquote, div.yahoo_quoted { margin-left: 0 !important; border-left:1px #715FFA solid
!important; padding-left:1ex !important; background-color:white !important; }
```

1884. 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-01 22:23:39 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1884 Message: 1884

Anyone happen to have the Mouser part number for the 250vac/20amp line fuses that plug into the back of the 87a?

I was transmitting merrily along over the weekend and the 87a just totally died on me. It will not come back on. I figured maybe I had gone into yet another Fault 99, and maybe I have, but I checked those line fuses with my multimeter and discovered that they both are blown. So I will start there with regard to getting the amp up and running again.

I checked Mouser and learned that they have a jillion different types of fuses. I am thinking that their part number 576-0314020.HXP is what I need. But that is a fast blow fuse and I am not sure that is correct.

Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1885. Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 07:09:19 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1884 Message: 1885

The fuses in my 87A are 20A ceramic fast-blow, marked 314, so they're Littelfuse 314. Either the Mouser 576-0314020.HXP or 576-0314020.MXP should be fine.

You probably know this but it's not normal for the amp to blow its fuses unless the incorrect voltage taps are selected. If the amp is new to you, check the voltage taps. If the amp has previously worked fine, it's likely to be a significant problem.

I don't think there are a lot of things that can cause the fuses to blow without the fault detection tripping first. I know from personal experience that a tube arc can do it. Also could be a problem with the HV supply. I'm sure there are other possibilities.

You mentioned "yet another Fault 99". What's the history of that? Were you able to determine the fault that preceded the lockup? Seems likely that it's the same fault this time.

If it's a tube arc, and the tube isn't too gassy, there's a decent chance the amp will start up again and might not fault again until you transmit. Or it might go for a while before enough air builds up in the tube to arc again. Eventually, the leak may get bad enough that the amp will fault as soon as the HV switches on. But again, a tube arc is only one of the possible causes.

Anyway, I would lay in a supply of fuses because you're likely to blow some as you troubleshoot the problem.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w4gd@...> wrote :

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Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John
W4GD

1886. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 11:59:53 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1884 Message: 1886
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Thank you very much for the help, Dick. I will order a supply of the Littelfuse 314’s.

I have had this amp since 1993 and the voltage taps are correct, so I am probably in for bigger problems.

A couple of previous Fault 99’s seemed to have been related to faults 22 and 24. But, in this case, there was no indication of any fault occurrence of any kind prior to the sudden shutdown, at least visually, i.e. no blinking lights. Will have to hook the computer up when I can to see what it shows.

I was just cruising along at less than 1.5kw output and swr, grid current, reflected power were all good. There was no noise or smoke, the amp just died.

Guess I will dig into it when the fuses arrive from Mouser. I will let the group know what I find.

Thanks again,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

The fuses in my 87A are 20A ceramic fast-blow, marked 314, so they're Littelfuse 314. Either the Mouser 576-0314020.HXP or 576-0314020.MXP should be fine.

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---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w4gd@...> wrote :

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Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1887. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 13:39:45 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1884 Message: 1887

Oh I was wondering if she has a smart phone like my Apple I5S that also can act like a GPS.

Thanks

George K

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
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Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1888. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 14:02:50 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1884 Message: 1888

By the way do I have your Mothers cell phone number? Give it to me.

I also don’t have her EMAIL address.

George K

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

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Thanks

George K

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:09 AM
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Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

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Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1889. Re: [Alpha87a] 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 14:52:37 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1884 Message: 1889

John,

The part is

Littlefuse 0314020.MXP (Fuse 250V FA 3AB 20A)

Alpha Part nr FSX-X109 in our online store.

https://www.alpharfsystems.com/?ec_store=fuse-20a-250v-fast-blow-ceramic

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha RF Systems

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 3:23 PM, 'John Morris' w4gd@... [Alpha87a]
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
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>
> Anyone happen to have the Mouser part number for the 250vac/20amp line
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> multimeter and discovered that they both are blown. So I will start there
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> need. But that is a fast blow fuse and I am not sure that is correct.
>
>
>
> Will appreciate help!
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>
>
> Tks/73,
>
>
>

> John
>
> W4GD
>
>

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1890. RE: [Alpha87a] 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-02 16:13:08 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1884 Message: 1890
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Thanks, Glenn!

I appreciate it.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 87a line Fuses

John,

The part is

Littlefuse 0314020.MXP (Fuse 250V FA 3AB 20A)

Alpha Part nr FSX-X109 in our online store.

https://www.alpharfsystems.com/?ec_store=fuse-20a-250v-fast-blow-ceramic

Glenn AE0Q

Alpha RF Systems

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 3:23 PM, 'John Morris' w4gd@... [Alpha87a]
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Anyone happen to have the Mouser part number for the 250vac/20amp line fuses that plug into the back of the 87a?

I was transmitting merrily along over the weekend and the 87a just totally died on me. It will not come back on. I figured maybe I had gone into yet another Fault 99, and maybe I have, but I checked those line fuses with my multimeter and discovered that they both are blown. So I will start there with regard to getting the amp up and running again.

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Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

--

Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TG-E, HP-O,
MXB, MJB, OF

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webscom/ <http://funagility.webs.com/>

1891. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-03 21:38:05 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1884 Message: 1891
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Dick (and Glenn if you are monitoring)…..

I ordered what should be a life time of 87a line fuses from Mouser, but they won't be here until Monday. Wanting to operate in the ARRL DX Contest this weekend, I stopped by a Home Depot store on the off chance they might have a suitable fuse. Lo and behold they do! They carry Cooper Bussman 250v, 20 amp , fast acting, ceramic fuses. They say they are microwave oven fuses.

So, I have placed them in my 87a and the 87a has turned on!! Apparently I did not have a fault #99!!

I have communicated via hyperterminal and here is what it shows:

SF 17 17 26 26 26 14 0 0

HF 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Those soft faults make no sense to me because my antennas are all 1.6 swr or better and I never push the power.

I guess my next step is to transmit, but I am somewhat fearful that I could cause some big damage. Guess I am asking for opinions as to what the above data might mean. Dick, your idea of a possible tube arc is seeming like a possibility to me.

Will appreciate any thoughts. Tks/73, John, W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

The fuses in my 87A are 20A ceramic fast-blow, marked 314, so they're Littelfuse 314. Either the Mouser 576-0314020.HXP or 576-0314020.MXP should be fine.

You probably know this but it's not normal for the amp to blow its fuses unless the incorrect voltage taps are selected. If the amp is new to you, check the voltage taps. If the amp has previously worked fine, it's likely to be a significant problem.

I don't think there are a lot of things that can cause the fuses to blow without the fault detection tripping first. I know from personal experience that a tube arc can do it. Also could be a problem with the HV supply. I'm sure there are other possibilities.

You mentioned "yet another Fault 99". What's the history of that? Were you able to determine the fault that preceded the lockup? Seems likely that it's the same fault this time.

If it's a tube arc, and the tube isn't too gassy, there's a decent chance the amp will start up again and might not fault again until you transmit. Or it might go for a while before enough air builds up in the tube to arc again. Eventually, the leak may get bad enough that the amp will fault as soon as the HV switches on. But again, a tube arc is only one of the possible causes.

Anyway, I would lay in a supply of fuses because you're likely to blow some as you troubleshoot the problem.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w4gd@...> wrote :

Anyone happen to have the Mouser part number for the 250vac/20amp line fuses that plug into the back of the 87a?

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I checked Mouser and learned that they have a jillion different types of fuses. I am thinking that their part number 576-0314020.HXP is what I need. But that is a fast blow fuse and I am not sure that is correct.

Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1892. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-04 04:03:30 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1884 Message: 1892

John,

Those soft faults look like the sort you'd get when transmitting with the wrong antenna or no antenna. They may have occurred some time ago, and may have no reaction to the problem that blew the fuses or the fault 99s. Is it possible they're simply from occasional antenna switching mistakes?

That said, I saw many different fault types, both hard and soft, when my gassy tube arced. The problem is that the arc can cause widespread disruption to the power supplies, and in turn the semiconductors. Any of the sensors can the trigger a fault condition, whether it really exists or not. Sometimes the amp makes it all the way through the fault sequence and shuts down. Other times the fuses blow first.

Compounding the problem is a design flaw in the 87a fault processing routine, which scans the sensors in a certain order and sometimes jumps to the wrong conclusion. This is why you sometimes get fault 17 (abnormal gain) when it's really excessive drive or SWR too high.

The hard faults you mentioned earlier, 22 and 24 I think, are unusual and look like power supply problems. But I'm pretty sure I saw weird faults like that when my gassy tube arced, and I also saw soft faults like 17, 26, 14. Again, the arc wreaks havoc with the fault processing system.

Let me hasten to point out that a problem in the HV or LV power supply could cause similar problems. As I may have nentioned, I took both boards apart trying to find a bad part.

Let me clarify the sequence of what happened with my bad tube: at first, it only happened randomly, on transmit. Then it happened more frequently on transmit. Then it happened every time I transmitted. Then it happened at the end of warmup. Then it happened immediately at startup. I think most of the time it faulted, but a few times it blew the fuses first, especially in the last stages.

As I reviewed all this, I realized it could be a tube arc. Failing immediately after warmup was a key symptom because that's when the full HV gets applied to the plate. My recollection is that I removed both tubes and turned on the amp. It made it all the way through warmup, but faulted because the tubes weren't installed. I then installed one tube at a time. My memory is dim on this, but I think the amp was able to come up and even transmit with one tube -- but I'm not positive about it. I can't remember how, but I confirmed that the bad tube was the new one I had used to replace one of the original tubes. The runs out nothing was wrong with that tube, which I had given to a friend (just a loose socket connection that caused a cathode heater fault.) When Inreinstalled that tube, the amp worked fine. Still does. I got a refund from Eimac through Alpha for the bad tube.

[Sorry if I told you all this before -- I'm on an iPad and can't scroll to see previous messages while I reply]

Anyway, I suggest you try transmitting with the drive as low as possible. Gradually increase the drive. Hopefully, you'll get to max without a fault. I'd say if you're able to

transmit at all, it's probably a tube arc,

Glenn, will the amp transmit with only one tube installed? If so, it should be easy to figure out which one is bad.

73, Dick WC1M

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Dick (and Glenn if you are monitoring)…..

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Those soft faults make no sense to me because my antennas are all 1.6 swr or better and I never push the power.

I guess my next step is to transmit, but I am somewhat fearful that I could cause some big damage. Guess I am asking for opinions as to what the above data might mean. Dick, your idea of a possible tube arc is seeming like a possibility to me.

Will appreciate any thoughts. Tks/73, John, W4GD

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Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

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Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John
W4GD

1893. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-04 22:25:16 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1884 Message: 1893

Dick, thanks a lot for your very thorough explanation. I only use the 87a with one antenna, so no chance of any occasional switching mistakes.

Well, I am a happy camper here late Saturday afternoon. The 87a fired up this morning without incident and has run like a champ all day long in the contest. I have not pushed it at all. Been feeding it 40w of drive and it is putting out right at 1kw.

So, I am thinking along the lines of an arcing tube. Guess I will keep playing and wait for the problem to happen again.

Thanks much for your help and advice.

73,

John

W4GD

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:04 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

John,

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Will appreciate any thoughts. Tks/73, John, W4GD

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Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 2:09 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a line Fuses

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I checked Mouser and learned that they have a jillion different types of fuses. I am thinking that their part number 576-0314020.HXP is what I need. But that is a fast blow fuse and I am not sure that is correct.

Will appreciate help!

Tks/73,

John

W4GD

1894. External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-11 15:36:33 UTC
From: johnstarr2013@...
Topic: 1894 Message: 1894

Just got a Alpha 87a from an estate sale. Everything seems to work OK (so far)... there is a small toggle switch on the rear panel right next to the external muffin fan that turns the muffin off. Is that a factory installed item? Why would anyone want to turn off the external fan during normal use?

john

1895. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-11 16:22:11 UTC
From: Joe
Topic: 1894 Message: 1895

I always leave mine on - if not, when involved in contesting or RTTY at high power, you can turn it on. I prefer to keep things cool all the time. Factory installed.

73,

Joe
WDØM

On 3/11/2017 8:36 AM, johnstarr2013@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Just got a Alpha 87a from an estate sale. Everything seems to work OK
> (so far)... there is a small toggle switch on the rear panel right
> next to the external muffin fan that turns the muffin off. Is that a
> factory installed item? Why would anyone want to turn off the
> external fan during normal use?
>
>
> john
>
>

1896. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-11 17:15:11 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1894 Message: 1896

In the late 90's the rear fan was installed with the switch. Early fans were a 3-blade fan that is very quiet but not very effective at moving air. Then after 2000 the fan was wired on all the time if installed. Changed to a 5 blade fan around 1999.
The fan hinders air flow into the amp when not turned on, it should be left on if installed.

Glenn AE0Q

On Sat, Mar 11, 2017 at 8:36 AM, johnstarr2013@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Just got a Alpha 87a from an estate sale. Everything seems to work OK (so
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Glenn and NATCH Katie,
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MXB, MJB, OF

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http://funagility.webs.com/

1897. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-11 21:57:48 UTC
From: James Heye
Topic: 1894 Message: 1897

It is a factory installed modification to run the muffin fan for use when using RITTY or another mode that requires additional cooling. Not that it is needed but I run my external fan all the time. No one has ever told me they can hear the extra noise generated when operating SSB.

Sent from my iPad
Jim

> On Mar 11, 2017, at 9:36 AM, johnstarr2013@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
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>
>
>
> john
>
>

1898. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 01:10:58 UTC
From: k6xt
Topic: 1894 Message: 1898

Can't say for all of them. My external fan is very noisy. In RTTY (when its actually needed) I always run it since the PC is doing the decoding work.

In CW, even contesting, the internal fan is sufficient to my needs.

I bought the kit, did not come with a switch. I added one.

73 Art K6XT~~
Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles from the cornfield"
-DDE
ARRL LM, CW OPS, GMCC, MHDXA, NAQCC, NCDXF, SDDXC, CDXC
ARRL TA

On 3/11/2017 5:54 PM, Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com wrote:
> 1a. External Fan Switch
> Posted by:johnstarr2013@... johnstarr2013
> Date: Sat Mar 11, 2017 7:36 am ((PST))
>
> Just got a Alpha 87a from an estate sale. Everything seems to work OK (so far)... there is a small toggle switch on the rear panel right next to the external muffin fan that turns the muffin off. Is that a factory installed item? Why would anyone want to turn off the external fan during normal use?
>
>
>
>
>
> john

1899. External Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 01:27:45 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1899 Message: 1899

Hello Everyone,
As I have been reading the posts about the external fan and was wondering has anyone installed an after market fan so they can run high power on the Digital Modes. If so what size (CFM's) 220 or 110. I have been running Digital modes and would like to run some high power without damaging the amp.

Thank you for any and all help.
73
Brian

1900. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 02:11:25 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1894 Message: 1900

For everone; make darn sure you clean the dust from the bottom of the cooling fins on the tubes occasionally.

Jim - KR9U

1901. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 05:06:16 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1899 Message: 1901

Hello Brian,

Use a 220/230vac muffin fan, use ring or spade lugs and connect it to the terminal strip in the 87A for setting the line voltage. Use the first and 3rd terminals as counted from front of amp (don't count the mounting screw).

Usual 5-blade fans are about 70 cfm, higher cfm fans move more air but are louder.

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha RF systems

On Sat, Mar 11, 2017 at 6:27 PM, w8tfi@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hello Everyone,
> As I have been reading the posts about the external fan and was wondering
> has anyone installed an after market fan so they can run high power on the
> Digital Modes. If so what size (CFM's) 220 or 110. I have been running
> Digital modes and would like to run some high power without damaging the
> amp.
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> Thank you for any and all help.
> 73
> Brian
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>

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MXB, MJB, OF

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1902. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 07:24:58 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1899 Message: 1902

Glen,
Thank you for the reply, the only other question I needed answered is what size 4 or 5 inch

1903. Re: [Alpha87a] External Fan

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-12 21:43:28 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1899 Message: 1903

Brian,

You'll have to measure the screw holes on the grill at the back of the amp,
I'm at home and don't have one to measure here.

Glenn AE0Q

On Sun, Mar 12, 2017 at 12:24 AM, w8tfi@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Glen,
> Thank you for the reply, the only other question I needed answered is what
> size 4 or 5 inch
>
>

1904. 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-22 05:54:13 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1904 Message: 1904

Hi Dan,

Your <http://www.ae9k.com/alpha-8410/alpha-8410-8406-monitor> Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program looks are really excellent and valuable piece of software. A good reason to buy an 8410.

http://www.ae9k.com/alpha-8410/alpha-8410-8406-monitor

I have an Alpha 87A.

I was wondering if you would know if your software would function with and Alpha 87A ?

I know this is a bit of a long shot but presumably the 87A was the original building block from which the eproms in the 8410 were developed.

You may know of the addresses in your software connects to in the 8410 are the same or different to the 87A.

Anyway I look forward to your reply when you have time?

Yours sIncerely

Jeff King ZL4AI

Dunedin 9016

New Zealand

1905. Re: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-22 13:46:09 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1904 Message: 1905

Jeff,

The 87A and 8410 have nothing in common regarding the PC communications
or the microprocessors. The baud rates and data from the amps are not the
same.

The AE9K 8410 monitor program was written for the 8410 commands, which are
vastly different from the 87A.

Glenn AE0Q

On Tue, Mar 21, 2017 at 11:54 PM, 'Jeff King' jking2603@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hi Dan,
>
>
>
> Your *Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor*
> <http://www.ae9k.com/alpha-8410/alpha-8410-8406-monitor> program looks
> are really excellent and valuable piece of software. A good reason to buy
> an 8410.
>
>
>
> http://www.ae9k.com/alpha-8410/alpha-8410-8406-monitor
>
>
>
>
>
> I have an Alpha 87A.
>
>
>
> I was wondering if you would know if your software would function with and
> Alpha 87A ?
>
> I know this is a bit of a long shot but presumably the 87A was the
> original building block from which the eproms in the 8410 were developed.
>
> You may know of the addresses in your software connects to in the 8410 are
> the same or different to the 87A.

>
>
>
> Anyway I look forward to your reply when you have time?
>
>
>
> Yours sIncerely
>
> Jeff King ZL4AI
>
>
>
> Dunedin 9016
>
> New Zealand
>
>
>

1906. RE: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-22 14:33:56 UTC
From: Jerry O. Stern
Topic: 1904 Message: 1906

Although the commands and I/O are different, and very likely some features for the 8410 would not be implemented for the 87a, what is most attractive is the GUI Dan developed. If he is willing to share the code, I would be willing to try to transpose the commands for all the 87a that may be available. I write a lot of uprocessor code for PIC's, Arduinos, etc but don't have the time to re-invent such a nice front end GUI as Dan has developed.

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; Dan Greil AE9K
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Jeff,

The 87A and 8410 have nothing in common regarding the PC communications or the microprocessors. The baud rates and data from the amps are not the same.

The AE9K 8410 monitor program was written for the 8410 commands, which are vastly different from the 87A.

Glenn AE0Q

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I have an Alpha 87A.

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You may know of the addresses in your software connects to in the 8410 are the same or different to the 87A.

Anyway I look forward to your reply when you have time?

Yours sIncerely

Jeff King ZL4AI

Dunedin 9016

New Zealand

1907. RE: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-22 17:43:28 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1904 Message: 1907

Besides Alpha Remote from Alpha, I have used two programs with my 87A.

My favorite is from HB9ZS - http://www.qslnet.de/member/hb9zs/ .

The other is from DF3CB - http://df3cb.com/alpha87a/documentation/ .

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: March 22, 2017 08:46
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; Dan Greil AE9K <dan@...>
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Jeff,

The 87A and 8410 have nothing in common regarding the PC communications or the microprocessors. The baud rates and data from the amps are not the same.

The AE9K 8410 monitor program was written for the 8410 commands, which are vastly different from the 87A.

Glenn AE0Q

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You may know of the addresses in your software connects to in the 8410 are the same or different to the 87A.

Anyway I look forward to your reply when you have time?

Yours sIncerely

Jeff King ZL4AI

Dunedin 9016

New Zealand

1908. 170323 [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-22 19:23:52 UTC
From: Jeff King
Topic: 1904 Message: 1908

Hi Glenn

thank you for your quick and immediate clarification that the data, and hence the data sources and address in the amps are totally different.

Really appreciated.

Jeff ZL4AI

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 2:46 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com; Dan Greil AE9K
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] 170322 Out DAN AE9K. Question about whether Alpha 8410-8406 Monitor program would work with an Alpha 87A

Jeff,

The 87A and 8410 have nothing in common regarding the PC communications or the microprocessors. The baud rates and data from the amps are not the same.

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Glenn AE0Q

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http://www.ae9k.com/alpha-8410/alpha-8410-8406-monitor

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I was wondering if you would know if your software would function with and Alpha 87A ?

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Anyway I look forward to your reply when you have time?

Yours sIncerely

Jeff King ZL4AI

Dunedin 9016

New Zealand

1909. Alpha 87a CAT Software on Win 7 64 bit PC?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-28 00:57:47 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1909 Message: 1909

I just upgraded from Win 7 32 bit to 64 bit and I installed HB9ZS CAT control v 5.12 and keep getting a runtime error 339 that says mswinsck.ocx is missing. I installed as Administrator. Anyone have success running this software on a Win 7 64 bit machine?

Jerry NY2KW

1910. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a CAT Software on Win 7 64 bit PC?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-28 01:36:49 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1909 Message: 1910

I ran it on my 64-bit machine under Windows 7 PE before I installed Windows 10. I didn’t have that problem, but I have that program installed for DXLab or some other program.

73, Jim N7US

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: March 27, 2017 19:58
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a CAT Software on Win 7 64 bit PC?

I just upgraded from Win 7 32 bit to 64 bit and I installed HB9ZS CAT control v 5.12 and keep getting a runtime error 339 that says mswinsck.ocx is missing. I installed as Administrator. Anyone have success running this software on a Win 7 64 bit machine?

Jerry NY2KW

1911. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a CAT Software on Win 7 64 bit PC?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-03-28 02:01:47 UTC
From: Pat B
Topic: 1909 Message: 1911

Jerry I googled the file and one of the suggestions is to do a restore of your computer to the point just prior to installing the software (in this case 87a software). Then try to reinstall and see if that works.
There is a lot to read about the mswinsck.ocx.
Pat
KB6Y

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 6:36 PM, 'Jim N7US' jim@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I ran it on my 64-bit machine under Windows 7 PE before I installed
> Windows 10. I didn’t have that problem, but I have that program installed
> for DXLab or some other program.
>
>
>
> *73, Jim N7US*
>
>
>
>
>
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> *Sent:* March 27, 2017 19:58
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] Alpha 87a CAT Software on Win 7 64 bit PC?
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> control v 5.12 and keep getting a runtime error 339 that says mswinsck.ocx
> is missing. I installed as Administrator. Anyone have success running
> this software on a Win 7 64 bit machine?
>
>
>
> Jerry NY2KW
>
>
>

1912. Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-05-28 13:41:15 UTC
From: doubleosevenpee@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1912
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hi,

I'm having an issue with my alpha 87a.
The frequency measurement is incorrect witch result in wrong band segment choice and error.

When trying to find support @ rkrdesignsllc.com, there website no longer exists...out of business?

Can someone help by pointing witch component is faulty?

Has someone the service manual of an 87a?

I attached the serial readout together with the correct input frequency.

73
Pat
OO7P

1913. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-05-29 02:10:26 UTC
From: K2CB
Topic: 1912 Message: 1913

Hi Pat,

Most likely you will need to replace the two IC chips in the frequency counter circuit, located on the input circuit board, which is accessible via the removable plate that comes off the bottom. It is just below the tube sockets. I am not near my office at the moment, but if I recall correctly the two chips are 74HC series chips, which are commonly available.

You will need to unsolder a few connections, then remove the board from the amplifier. Since it is a double-sided board, and the pins are tightly spaced, my recommendation, if you do not have a real good desoldering station, would be to cut each pin one at a time with real sharp cutters, and remove the body of the IC chips first. Then unsolder each pin from the board individually.

I actually replaced all four IC chips on the board while I had it out, just to be safe. They were cheap enough, and it wasn't worth the aggravation taking it out twice, in case there were other issues.

Once you replace the two IC chips, you should see the correct frequency information being sent to the CPU at that point.

The particular amplifier I was repairing had one additional problem. Somehow the EEPROM information inside the main CPU had become corrupted.

There are four frequency range lockout entries in the configuration. Three of them are for the resonant frequency points of the plate joke. The fourth is the 11m lockout. In my case the third resonance frequency range had become corrupted and was actually blocking the 15m band. I had to go in and edit the hex values to put it back to normal. I'm not sure if the bad frequency counter data corrupted it, or if the owner accidentally did it using some other type of software. Anyway, once I reprogrammed the appropriate EEPROM data points, the amplifier worked fine.

If you have any other questions, let me know. I should be back at my office tomorrow, where I have the actual service information saved.

Eric
K2CB

1914. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-05-29 05:53:09 UTC
From: doubleosevenpee@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1914

Thanks Eric,

I also received answer from Glenn.

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha RF Systems, LLC
634 South Sunset Street
Longmont CO 80501
Phone: (303) 716-7728

Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment:

The pot in the bottom of the 87A is to be adjusted as follows.

1. Place the 87A on it's right side.
2. Remove the bottom cover under the tubes.
3. Place the transceiver on 28mhz and adjust the power output to 5 watts.
4. Place the amplifier in the 160 meters position.
5. Put the pot in the full clockwise position to start.
6. Key the radio and adjust the pot counter clockwise until the amplifier changes bands then stop there.
7. Replace the covers and place the amp back flat on the table.

If the amp is still having problems changing frequency than the amp needs to be repaired. The problem is most likely on the frequency counter PCB and will need additional trouble shooting.

As the amplifier switches from band i think your solution is more likely. Thanks for the fast answer. I'll inform if i get it working again.

73

Pat

1915. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-05-29 14:41:46 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1912 Message: 1915

Pat and Eric,

Thank you for sharing with the group. It’s important to keep the collective knowledge public in order to keep this great amp serviceable.

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2017 1:53 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Thanks Eric,

I also received answer from Glenn.

Glenn AE0Q

Alpha RF Systems, LLC

634 South Sunset Street

Longmont CO 80501

Phone: (303) 716-7728

Alpha 87A Frequency Detect Adjustment:

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As the amplifier switches from band i think your solution is more likely. Thanks for the fast answer. I'll inform if i get it working again.

73

Pat

1916. need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 18:09:32 UTC
From: kd1ct@tds.net
Topic: 1916 Message: 1916

Seeking the collective wisdom of the group and happy
fathers day to those appropriately blessed!
Amp purchased new from Alpha in mid 1990s and worked
perfectly until lightning did some damage about 10 years
ago. Back to Colorado and returned home repaired and new
tubes and worked perfectly until about nine months ago.
Then while warming up there was clicking (relay) noises
and audio from the radio sometimes was present but sometimes
not. But when amp was warmed up and ready to operate when
switched from standby to operate all was well.
About two months ago the clicking vanished and the amp
worked as new.
About a month ago the clicking returned and again while
warming up, radio audio nonexistent, but when switched to
operate again the amp performed perfectly. When switched
back to standby sometimes the clicking occurred but not always.
Today (as a special fathers day present?) the amp started with
the clicking noises but there was a smell of burnt electrics.
But the amp went through the warm up sequence as normal and
after the three minutes the proper leds were on and all seemed
good. Until, that is, I tried to transmit.
The amp completely shut off. No flashing or blinking lights,
no error led. Just shut off completely.
Unplugged and left for a couple of hours and then tried again.
Transit with 5 watts (minimum for the Kenwood) and one dit and
amp shut off.
Thoughts?
Do I beg the XYL for a father's day present of a new amp?!
Any thoughts, comments will be greatly appreciated. If you need more
information please ask.
Thanks very much in advance,
Bob (KD1CT)

Barnstead, NH

1917. [Alpha87a] need help with a strange problem I am seeing!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 18:23:22 UTC
From: JAY NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1917

Good morning everyone and Happy Fathers day as well! I was hoping I would never have to post here but it seems its my turn in the "problem barrel with a few of yew" So a few weeks ago my Alpha 87A started acting strange. When I powered it on, it warmed up just fine, went through the warm up cycle alright and as I started to apply power to the amp to tune it to the band I was working (20mtrs) it through the "Fault and Plate" lights. I reset the amp with the standby switch and it would continuously do this now matter how low I had the exciter power turned down. I finally unplugged the amp and let it sit for 20 minutes to reset the microprocessor.

I powered the amp back on and it worked well at 1KW for the rest of the day. What I am noticing now is that when I now turn the amp on, even after the warm up cycle, it does the same thing and will fault with only a few hundred watts, but if I let it sit running for 20 minutes or so I eventually can push 40W of drive and get 1KW / 1KW+ out of it for the rest of the day no problem. So what am I seeing here? Is it a capacitor problem? HV shows 3.0 on the scale and I am not seeing anything else wrong that is noticeable, just that it seems the amp needs to "warm" up much more than the power on cycle..

Thanks! Jay, W3SCA

Reply via web post https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/1916;_ylc=X3oDMTJxb3UyOXJtBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxOTE2BHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3JwbHkEc3RpbWUDMTQ5NzgwOTM3NA--?act=reply&messageNum=1916
• Reply to sender mailto:kd1ct@...?subject=Re%3A%20need%20help%21
• Reply to group mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20need%20help%21
• Start a New Topic https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/newtopic;_ylc=X3oDMTJmNG4yYmpsBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzE0OTc4MDkzNzQ-
• Messages in this topic https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/topics/1916;_ylc=X3oDMTM1M3BxNHYwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARtc2dJZAMxOTE2BHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTQ5NzgwOTM3NAR0cGNJZAMxOTE2 (1)

Have you tried the highest rated email app? https://yho.com/1wwmgg
With 4.5 stars in iTunes, the Yahoo Mail app is the highest rated email app on the market. What are you waiting for? Now you can access all your inboxes (Gmail, Outlook, AOL and more) in one place. Never delete an email again with 1000GB of free cloud storage.

Visit Your Group https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/info;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbDY3dGs4BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2hwBHN0aW1lAzE0OTc4MDkzNzQ-

[Yahoo! Groups] https://groups.yahoo.com/neo;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZjhsZHVwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzIxMDY0Mzk0BGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MzEwOARzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNnZnAEc3RpbWUDMTQ5NzgwOTM3NA--

• Privacy https://info.yahoo.com/privacy/us/yahoo/groups/details.html • Unsubscribe mailto:Alpha87a-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe • Terms of Use https://info.yahoo.com/legal/us/yahoo/utos/terms/

.

>

1918. Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 21:06:57 UTC
From: Jerry Stern
Topic: 1916 Message: 1918

What are the fault codes?

Jerry NY2KW

Sent from my iPad

1919. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 21:42:40 UTC
From: GEORGE NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1919
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1920. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 22:27:05 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1920 Message: 1920
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

```
[ Attachment content not displayed ]
```

1921. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 22:32:50 UTC
From: GEORGE NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1921
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

```
[ Attachment content not displayed ]
```

1922. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 23:46:17 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1920 Message: 1922
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1923. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-18 23:49:53 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1916 Message: 1923

Jay, Are the faults all 17? Did you use software to read off the fault(s) or just the front panel flashing LED’s? Does it happen on all bands during warm up? Dick Green WC1M reported something similar a few years back and turned out to be oxidation in tube socket and needed reseating but sometimes a gassy tube that arcs during warmup. The fault reporting process is circuitous so the amp may only display the last fault on the front panel LEDs. Check if any fault 8 or 9 before the final 17.

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Fault 17, but like I said it only does it right after the warm up cycle, if I walk away for 10 more minutes and come back, the amp is fine...

Thanks... Jay

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

------ Original Message ------

From: Jerry Stern jsternmd@att.net <mailto:jsternmd@...> [Alpha87a]
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: June 18, 2017 at 5:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

What are the fault codes?

Jerry NY2KW

Sent from my iPad

1924. Re: [Alpha87a] need help with a strange problem I am seeing!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-19 00:12:28 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1916 Message: 1924

Dang, I had a message almost ready and it disappeared. This one is better.

Go to the files section and open the file Falut_17.txt (Not Fault_17.txt) by our good friend Glenn AE0Q.
This exact thing happened to me in the same way. After it was on, it was better, but still not right.

D1, a IN5711 diode in the input wattmeter was partially shorted. If this is your problem, you need to use the correct diode. This is a schottky diode and has different characteristics than a standard signal diode.

Good Luck,

Jim - KR9U

1925. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-19 00:42:28 UTC
From: JAY NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1925

Okay Mike thanks I will try that...

Jay

> On June 18, 2017 at 7:46 PM "'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> I meant rs-seat the tubes.
>
> 73 Mike W4AAW
>
> Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone
>
> ----- Reply message -----
> From: "GEORGE NARDONE jaynardone@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
> Date: Sun, Jun 18, 2017 6:32 PM
>
>
>
> Mike thanks, no I haven't. This amp has worked flawlessly up until now.
>
> Jay
>
>
> Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App
>
>
>
> ------ Original Message ------
>
> From: 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@aol.com [Alpha87a]
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: June 18, 2017 at 6:29 PM
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
>
>
>
> Have you measured the actual filament voltage on both tubes?
>
> Could the countdown counter be faulty or have drifting component values?
>

> I have an 87A and once had to repeat the tubes for it to act right.
>
> Apparently, oxidation set it, on the tube socket contacts or tube pins.
>
> That's all I can think of.
>
> GL, Mike W4AAW
>
>
>
>
> ----- Reply message -----
> From: "GEORGE NARDONE jaynardone@comcast.net [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
> Date: Sun, Jun 18, 2017 5:42 PM
>
>
>
> Fault 17, but like I said it only does it right after the warm up cycle, if I walk away for 10 more minutes and come back, the amp is fine...
>
> Thanks... Jay
>
>
> Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App
>
>
>
> ------ Original Message ------
>
> From: Jerry Stern jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: June 18, 2017 at 5:09 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
>
>
>
> What are the fault codes?
>
> Jerry NY2KW
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
>
>

>

1926. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-19 00:44:22 UTC
From: JAY NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1926

Jerry good point, I dont have a DB25 cable right now so I dont have a way to talk to the amp directly. I am only seeing the LEDs at this point. Yeah I did notice it doesnt matter if I try to tune on 40mtrs, 20 or 15 mtrs it will through the same faults if I try to tune right after the 3 minute warm up is complete. If I let it run for 10 minutes and come back, it is just fine all day....

Jay

> On June 18, 2017 at 7:49 PM "'Jerry' jsternmd@att.net [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> Jay, Are the faults all 17? Did you use software to read off the fault(s) or just the front panel flashing LED’s? Does it happen on all bands during warm up? Dick Green WC1M reported something similar a few years back and turned out to be oxidation in tube socket and needed reseating but sometimes a gassy tube that arcs during warmup. The fault reporting process is circuitous so the amp may only display the last fault on the front panel LEDs. Check if any fault 8 or 9 before the final 17.
>
>
>
> 73
>
> Jerry NY2KW
>
>
>
> From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:43 PM
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
>
>
>
>
>
> Fault 17, but like I said it only does it right after the warm up cycle, if I walk away for 10 more minutes and come back, the amp is fine...
>
> Thanks... Jay
>
>
> Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App
>

>
>
> ------ Original Message ------
>
> From: Jerry Stern jsternmd@... mailto:jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]
> To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: June 18, 2017 at 5:09 PM
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!
>
>
>
> What are the fault codes?
>
> Jerry NY2KW
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
>
>

>

1927. Re: [Alpha87a] need help with a strange problem I am seeing!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-19 00:45:02 UTC
From: JAY NARDONE
Topic: 1916 Message: 1927

Thank you for that information Jim!

Jay

> On June 18, 2017 at 8:12 PM "jbwolf@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> Dang, I had a message almost ready and it disappeared. This one is better.
>
> Go to the files section and open the file Falut_17.txt (Not Fault_17.txt) by our good friend Glenn AE0Q.
> This exact thing happened to me in the same way. After it was on, it was better, but still not right.
>
> D1, a IN5711 diode in the input wattmeter was partially shorted. If this is your problem, you need to use the correct diode. This is a schottky diode and has different characteristics than a standard signal diode.
>
> Good Luck,
>
> Jim - KR9U
>
>
>

>

1928. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-06-19 01:02:07 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1916 Message: 1928

Changing bands right after warm-up brings lots of things into play. Start by going to each band – start 80m and work down, after your ”10 min” safety window move to next band and power off, then power on and see if it faults right after warmup.

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 8:44 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Jerry good point, I dont have a DB25 cable right now so I dont have a way to talk to the amp directly. I am only seeing the LEDs at this point. Yeah I did notice it doesnt matter if I try to tune on 40mtrs, 20 or 15 mtrs it will through the same faults if I try to tune right after the 3 minute warm up is complete. If I let it run for 10 minutes and come back, it is just fine all day....

Jay

On June 18, 2017 at 7:49 PM "'Jerry' jsternmd@... <mailto:jsternmd@...> [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> > wrote:

Jay, Are the faults all 17? Did you use software to read off the fault(s) or just the front panel flashing LED’s? Does it happen on all bands during warm up? Dick Green WC1M reported something similar a few years back and turned out to be oxidation in tube socket and needed reseating but sometimes a gassy tube that arcs during warmup. The fault reporting process is circuitous so the amp may only display the last fault on the front panel LEDs. Check if any fault 8 or 9 before the final 17.

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:43 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

Fault 17, but like I said it only does it right after the warm up cycle, if I walk away for 10 more minutes and come back, the amp is fine...

Thanks... Jay

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

------ Original Message ------

From: Jerry Stern jsternmd@... <mailto:jsternmd@...> [Alpha87a]
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: June 18, 2017 at 5:09 PM
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: need help!

What are the fault codes?

Jerry NY2KW

Sent from my iPad

1929. 87a stuck on Low Power (low plate voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-07-06 00:39:19 UTC
From: brianmo@...
Topic: 1929 Message: 1929

My 87a was set to "Low Power" mode using the front panel switch, and used in a contest (I've told them NOT to do it that way again). Now, it's 'stuck' in low power mode -- plate voltage is nothing approaching 3kv, and the hi/low power switch doesn't have any effect on the plate voltage.

Suggestions on where to begin diagnosing and (hopefully) fixing this?

Thanks
Brian N9ADG

1930. Re: 87a stuck on Low Power (low plate voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-07-06 01:46:42 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1929 Message: 1930

I don't know where it is located, but on the High Voltage Power Supply Board, there is a relay K1, that goes to the transformer where it appears the relay switches between different HV taps. It could be your relay is stuck. There are two schematics of the HVPS.

Jim - KR9U

1931. Re: 87a stuck on Low Power (low plate voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-07-06 06:45:31 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1929 Message: 1931

Probably a bad Hi/Lo switch or Hi/Lo relay, or if the amp was moved or transported a wire or connector may have come loose.

The Hi/Lo front panel switch connects to the microprocessor board. The microprocessor connects to the Hi/Lo relay, which is on the HV power supply board.

You could try using AlphaMax or one of the 87A remote control programs to set Hi/Low mode from a PC. If it works, the front panel switch is the culprit.

1932. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a stuck on Low Power (low plate voltage)

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-07-06 11:01:05 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1929 Message: 1932

Since I was told that LV should never be used by Alpha could the HV tap be wired in the HV position to eliminate the processor board, front panel switch, and the relay?

Just thinking.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 9:47 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: 87a stuck on Low Power (low plate voltage)

I don't know where it is located, but on the High Voltage Power Supply Board, there is a relay K1, that goes to the transformer where it appears the relay switches between different HV taps. It could be your relay is stuck. There are two schematics of the HVPS.

Jim - KR9U

1933. No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 18:39:42 UTC
From: petervee@...
Topic: 1933 Message: 1933

Hi,

I finally connected my 87A to my transceiver. I have been using a Ten Tec Titan Linear, also with 2 3cx800's. The PTT switch is a remote unit that activates the relay on the titan and it works well.

I tried to do the same by connecting the 87A, but it doesn't PTT. I connected the wire to the relay socket, but it doesn't go into transmit. Otherwise it seems to work fine; bands can be switched around. All the indicators are fine; no error shown. The Hi and Low switch the voltage. The exciter's output is even displayed on the 87A (very little because I set my emitter to 30watts) but the 87a doesn't go into transmit.

Any idea why?

Thanjs,
Peter, KH6VP

1934. Re: No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:03:31 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 1933 Message: 1934

Does it go into transmit if you short the "RELAY" jack on the back of the amplifier? If so, then the problem is not the amplifier.

Jim - KR9U

1935. Re: No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:08:54 UTC
From: petervee@...
Topic: 1933 Message: 1935

I tried that. No, it doesn't.

1936. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:11:44 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1933 Message: 1936

PIN Diodes gone?
Larry, KN8N

On Tuesday, August 29, 2017 3:08 PM, "petervee@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  I tried that. No, it doesn't.

1937. Re: [Alpha87a] No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:05:15 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1933 Message: 1937

Hello Peter,

The 87A only needs a closure to ground on the RELAY jack to key it. There is only 12vdc on the amplifier RELAY jack, and 1 ma when shorted.

1) What radio are you using. It can probably key the 87A directly, depending on the model.

2) What does the "remote unit" consist of that was keying the Titan?

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha RF Systems

On Tue, Aug 29, 2017 at 12:39 PM, petervee@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hi,
>
> I finally connected my 87A to my transceiver. I have been using a Ten Tec
> Titan Linear, also with 2 3cx800's. The PTT switch is a remote unit that
> activates the relay on the titan and it works well.
>
> I tried to do the same by connecting the 87A, but it doesn't PTT. I
> connected the wire to the relay socket, but it doesn't go into transmit.
> Otherwise it seems to work fine; bands can be switched around. All the
> indicators are fine; no error shown. The Hi and Low switch the voltage. The
> exciter's output is even displayed on the 87A (very little because I set my
> emitter to 30watts) but the 87a doesn't go into transmit.
>
> Any idea why?
>
> Thanjs,
>
> Peter, KH6VP
>
> __._,_.__
> .
>

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-TN-E, O-WV-E, O-TG-E, HP-O,
AKC MXB, MJB, XF,
DOCNA S-SAA

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1938. Re: [Alpha87a] No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:20:06 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1933 Message: 1938

On 29 Aug 2017 18:39:42 +0000, "petervee@... [Alpha87a]"
<Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>I connected the wire to the relay socket, but it doesn't go into transmit.

What happens when you short the RCA jack on the back of the Alpha 87A?
Is that what you were intimating above?

1939. Re: [Alpha87a] No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:21:29 UTC
From: petervee@...
Topic: 1933 Message: 1939

Glenn, I am using a switch designed to switch older linears that had more than 12V on the relay jack. I leave it always inline. It works fine on the Titan and other linears.

When I follow the schematic, I see that the relay line [called Keyin at some point; see page 9 of the Micro board schematic, which originates in the Tube Deck board as RELAY] I see the line is fed through a 4.7K resistor to 5V. Where do you get 12V, or do I read the schematic wrong?

I am hoping there might some condition that stops the 87A from going into TX. I just don't know what it would be. The linear originated with someone who didn't really look after it. It had error 99, which I fixed, and it went through a cleaning.

Thanks for any help.
Peter

1940. Re: No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 21:06:37 UTC
From: petervee@...
Topic: 1933 Message: 1940

Problem solved.

The wire connecting the relay jack and the little PCB, inside the case, was broken. That happened because it had no slack, so as the previous user kept putting the cable in and out, the stress made it break at the solder point. I replaced it, soldered it [not much space; had to remove the RF Input little board to gain space], and now it works fine.
Peter

1941. Re: [Alpha87a] No PTT switching the 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-08-29 19:45:33 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1933 Message: 1941

Peter,

I was looking at the wrong line on my amp keying spec chart, the 87A is
5vdc on the RELAY jack.

https://www.alpharfsystems.com/?p=1560

How do you know the 87A isn't keying? There are no relays that click,
the T/R switching is silent once in Operate.

Short the RELAY jack to gnd, then apply 10w of drive. Does it amplify?

If no amplified RF output, what is the input SWR of the amp (seen by the
radio) ?

Glenn AE0Q

> When I follow the schematic, I see that the relay line [called Keyin at
> some point; see page 9 of the Micro board schematic, which originates in
> the Tube Deck board as RELAY] I see the line is fed through a 4.7K resistor
> to 5V. Where do you get 12V, or do I read the schematic wrong?
>
>

1942. Xmit

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-09-22 20:48:15 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1942 Message: 1942

Does anyone know if the 87a will transmit down at 3.3 Mhz?

Thanks.
Larry, KN8N

1943. Re: [Alpha87a] Xmit

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-09-22 21:29:29 UTC
From: Larry Dighera
Topic: 1942 Message: 1943

On Fri, 22 Sep 2017 20:48:15 +0000 (UTC), "Larry Boekeloo lboekeloo@sbcglobal.net [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>Does anyone know if the 87a will transmit down at 3.3 Mhz?
>
>Thanks.
>Larry, KN8N

On page 11 of the Alpha 87A manual http://www.tentec.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/87amanual.pdf it states:

Frequency Coverage: All amateur bands 1.8-29.7 MHz* plus most non-amateur frequencies 6.0-19.0 MHz and 20-30 MHz.

1944. Re: [Alpha87a] Xmit

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-09-23 00:58:04 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 1942 Message: 1944

You can find out how far below 80m it tunes by moving down 20 or 25 KHz at a time, tuning it up and saving that in segment 1. Then move down again, tune, save. You can keep that up until the TUNE capacitor is maxed out and that will be limit.

Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 2:48 PM, Larry Boekeloo lboekeloo@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Does anyone know if the 87a will transmit down at 3.3 Mhz?
>
> Thanks.
>
> Larry, KN8N
>
>

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie,
NADAC Elite Versatility Award,
O-TN-E, O-WV-E, O-TG-E, HP-O,
AKC MXB, MJB, XF,
DOCNA S-SAA

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1945. Re: [Alpha87a] Xmit

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-09-23 01:01:02 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1942 Message: 1945

Thanks Glenn/
Larry, KN8N

On Friday, September 22, 2017 8:58 PM, "GWP gm5bkc@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  You can find out how far below 80m it tunes by moving down 20 or 25 KHz at a time, tuning it up and saving that in segment 1. Then move down again, tune, save. You can keep that up until the TUNE capacitor is maxed out and that will be limit.

Glenn AE0Q

On Fri, Sep 22, 2017 at 2:48 PM, Larry Boekeloo lboekeloo@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

  Does anyone know if the 87a will transmit down at 3.3 Mhz?

Thanks.
Larry, KN8N

--
Glenn and NATCH Katie, NADAC Elite Versatility Award, O-TN-E, O-WV-E, O-TG-E, HP-O,AKC MXB, MJB, XF,DOCNA S-SAA
http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

1946. FS: Alpha 87A transformer shipping carton

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-01 10:04:46 UTC
From: Jim N7US
Topic: 1946 Message: 1946

I have sold my 87A but still have a new, never-opened, transformer shipping carton, including the inner box and Styrofoam. I bought it new from Alpha to replace my original transformer shipping carton but never used it.

I'd like to recoup the $35 (plus shipping) that I paid for it.

73, Jim N7US

1947. Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 04:30:56 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1947 Message: 1947

My 87A has developed a problem in that it is no longer changing bands. It is working properly once I move the amplifier to the proper band. Any suggestions? What can be checked to diagnose the problem? Barney K3LA

1948. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 09:44:18 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1947 Message: 1948

Hello Barney

I had a similar problem. The issue was that the grease on band switch shaft dried up and the switch required more torque that the stepper motor could deliver. It would sometimes switch, and sometimes not. Most of the time it would fail on start-up and set a band switch error code. A dab of oil on the joints and exercise resolved the problem. (Thanks Glen)

Best 73
Bob, WC3O

On Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 12:30 AM, scholl@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> My 87A has developed a problem in that it is no longer changing bands. It
> is working properly once I move the amplifier to the proper band. Any
> suggestions? What can be checked to diagnose the problem? Barney K3LA
>
>
>

--
radiofreebob@...m
www.skyviewradio.net

1949. FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 11:25:47 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1949 Message: 1949

My beloved Alpha 87A doesn't POWER ON at all (I mean doesnt start at all - no code faults, nothing. AMP doesn't react to ON button. I've heard some slight mechanical noises , when pressing ON button, coming from the upper (?) rear right corner. Completely dead.
This situation has happened already back in 2015 but was sucessfully cleared (with Hyperterminal) as Fault 99 was removed from the fault log. At the time 1,25 A fuse was replaced.

Again I have connected a terminal with HYPERTERM Program to the Amplifier and I see FAULT 22. Not 99. In AC Module 1,25A step-start fuse is burned (black...) - is this fuse one Slow or Fast fusion one ? I could not check the 100 mA miniature fuse inside the module.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Thanks de Luis, CT4NH

1950. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 15:46:03 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1949 Message: 1950

Hi Luis,

Here are some notes I have collected on Fault 22”

“If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a loose pin in the transformer connector or a blown step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), It can also indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown. Check the conector and the step-start fuse first, it is right under the cover. Look at the white 9-pin Molex connector from a slight angle tot he left and also right, you will be able to see if any of the pins have backed out of the connector body when it was plugged in. The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted. This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when good, but should be less than 10 ohms. Another cause of the amp shutting down can be a shorted tube. You can test that by either removing the tubes, or by disconnecting the red HV lead from the left-rear corner of the HV power supply board. It will still get a fault, but should not be a hard fault."

And finally, if the above doesn’t help you in diagnosis, there was the following quote direct from Alpha repair for an intermittent Fault 22:

“"...transformer looks fine...connectors on amp look ok. ...ran for several hours with no faults...started and shut down several times - initially no problems. ...eventually we DID GET several fault 22-amp did not come on at all, but did fault. Checked resistance of switches on amp and found OFF switch had a high intermittent resistance when button not pushed-supposed to be low resistance, except when button is pushed. Replaced all 4 switches with upgraded units and new wiring. ...tested turn-on about 25 times-no faults."

GL es 73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

My beloved Alpha 87A doesn't POWER ON at all (I mean doesnt start at all - no code faults, nothing. AMP doesn't react to ON button. I've heard some slight mechanical noises , when pressing ON button, coming from the upper (?) rear right corner. Completely dead.

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Again I have connected a terminal with HYPERTERM Program to the Amplifier and I see FAULT 22. Not 99. In AC Module 1,25A step-start fuse is burned (black...) - is this fuse one Slow or Fast fusion one ? I could not check the 100 mA miniature fuse inside the module.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Thanks de Luis, CT4NH

1951. Re: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 16:01:44 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1951 Message: 1951
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1952. Re: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 16:18:59 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1949 Message: 1952

Thanks Jerry!
The fuse 1.25A slow fusion one was blown. I have to check the other fuses also. I will follow your description.
Glenn, AE0Q is also helping. Very much appreciated indeed!
Thanks again and best 73 de Luis, CT4NH

On 16 October 2017 at 16:46, 'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Hi Luis,
>
>
>
> Here are some notes I have collected on Fault 22”
>
>
>
> “If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a loose pin in the
> transformer connector or a blown step-start fuse (at the center of the amp
> next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), It can also indicate that the 36v
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> first, it is right under the cover. Look at the white 9-pin Molex
> connector from a slight angle tot he left and also right, you will be able
> to see if any of the pins have backed out of the connector body when it was
> plugged in. The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The
> fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v
> circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is
> vertically mounted. This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a
> socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the
> amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in
> from the right-hand edge of the LVPS board. It may measure a few ohms when
> good, but should be less than 10 ohms. Another cause of the amp shutting
> down can be a shorted tube. You can test that by either removing the
> tubes, or by disconnecting the red HV lead from the left-rear corner of the
> HV power supply board. It will still get a fault, but should not be a hard
> fault."
>
>
>
> And finally, if the above doesn’t help you in diagnosis, there was the
> following quote direct from Alpha repair for an intermittent Fault 22:
>
>

>
> “"...transformer looks fine...connectors on amp look ok. ...ran for
> several hours with no faults...started and shut down several times -
> initially no problems. ...eventually we DID GET several fault 22-amp did
> not come on at all, but did fault. Checked resistance of switches on amp
> and found OFF switch had a high intermittent resistance when button not
> pushed-supposed to be low resistance, except when button is pushed.
> Replaced all 4 switches with upgraded units and new wiring. ...tested
> turn-on about 25 times-no faults."
>
>
>
> GL es 73
>
> Jerry, NY2KW
>
>
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> *From:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
> *Sent:* Monday, October 16, 2017 7:26 AM
> *To:* Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start
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>
>
>
>
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>
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> the time 1,25 A fuse was replaced.
>
>
>
> Again I have connected a terminal with HYPERTERM Program to the Amplifier
> and I see FAULT 22. Not 99. In AC Module 1,25A step-start fuse is burned
> (black...) - is this fuse one Slow or Fast fusion one ? I could not check
> the 100 mA miniature fuse inside the module.
>
>
>
> Any help would be much appreciated.
>
>
>
> Thanks de Luis, CT4NH

>
>
>

1953. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 19:13:23 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1949 Message: 1953

Where did you buy them?

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

What a fine reflector.

You guys are most helpful.

BTW, h just obtained a new pair of Taylor (Chinese) 3CX800A7s. They work fine.

After 12 hrs. of burn in and very low level usage, I steeled up my courage and slowly cranked up to legal limit out.

Low drive required and low grid current.

I am thankful I seem to have got a good pair.

73, Mike W4AAW

----- Reply message -----
From: "'Jerry' jsternmd@... <mailto:jsternmd@...> [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> >
To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> >
Subject: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2017 11:46 AM

Hi Luis,

Here are some notes I have collected on Fault 22”

“If the 87A reports a Fault 22, it is usually caused by a loose pin in the transformer connector or a blown step-start fuse (at the center of the amp next to the AC Voltage terminal strip), It can also indicate that the 36v power supply fuse is blown. Check the conector and the step-start fuse first, it is right under the cover. Look at the white 9-pin Molex connector from a slight angle tot he left and also right, you will be able to see if any of the pins have backed out of the connector body when it was plugged in. The 36v fuse is on the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS). The fuse is marked 125v/2A, it is called the 36v fuse because it is in the 36v circuit. The LVPS is under the HV Power Supply, its circuit board is vertically mounted. This is a small cartridge fuse that plugs into a socket (usually white). This can be seen from the right-hand side of the amplifier, under the High Voltage board 1/5 in from the top edge and 3/4 in from the right-hand edge

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GL es 73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
[mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 7:26 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

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Any help would be much appreciated.

Thanks de Luis, CT4NH

1954. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 19:25:26 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1949 Message: 1954

Do you mean 1,25A SF fuses?

Em 16/10/2017 20:13, "'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]" <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> escreveu:

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1955. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 21:22:37 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1949 Message: 1955

No … the chinese 3cx800A7

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

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Thanks de Luis, CT4NH

1956. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 21:25:16 UTC
From: Luis Teixeira
Topic: 1949 Message: 1956

Tubes are EIMAC. Original. No Chinese stuff.

Em 16/10/2017 22:22, "'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]" <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> escreveu:

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1957. RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 21:28:39 UTC
From: john
Topic: 1949 Message: 1957

Great, but where did you buy that?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
-------- Original message --------From: "Luis Teixeira xx9tnh@gmail.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> Date: 10/16/17 3:25 PM (GMT-07:00) To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com Subject: RE: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

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1958. Re: [Alpha87a] FAULT 22 - AMP doesn't start

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-16 21:48:39 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1951 Message: 1958
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1959. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-17 03:08:08 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1947 Message: 1959

Was there any noise as the switch tried to move? I hear nothing. I then get in error 17 as rf is applied on the wrong band. I am not sure that the band segment moves correctly either. Does it make any difference going up or down bands.
Barney K3LA

1960. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-17 03:36:13 UTC
From: Robert Bastone
Topic: 1947 Message: 1960

Yes

You could hear the stepper trying to do it's thing. Sometimes the amp would soft fault, sometimes it would shut down completely and sometimes it would come up fine, but soft fault during a band change.

Do the caps go through their start-up cycle? Mine did. (I did start it with the cover off to see what was going on (Dead man switches bypassed). Naturally, you know the deadly danger with that. Believe-you-me my hands were nowhere near that. (Been there, done that, didn't like it)

Bob

On Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 11:08 PM, scholl@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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radiofreebob@...
www.skyviewradio.net

1961. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-18 03:05:20 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1947 Message: 1961

I can change bands with the front panel switches. I am not sure that it is going to the right segment. When I try to do an auto band change no mechanical noises. If there is more than an instant of power I get a 17 fault. I am thinking that it is not reading the frequency or not getting that information to another curcuit to change bands. I believe you can read the frequency being sensed by connecting to the serial port. I will try that next unless something comes up on this group. Barney

1962. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-19 03:06:26 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1947 Message: 1962

The first step is connect to the serial port and see what the internal frequency counter is actually measuring. The HB9ZS Alpha 87CAT program is an invaluable tool for this step. Sounds like the detector circuit is reporting incorrect frequency information.

Search the archives for my posts from a year or so ago. It explains how I isolated the problem. If it is not reporting the frequency at all, it may be as simple as adjusting the sensitivity pot to “clean” it and restore sensitivity of the measuring detector. They’ve been known to act up. If you are getting incorrect readings, you wil most likely need to replace one or more ICs on the board underneath the tube deck (accessible via the removable bottom panel}.

Eric
K2CB

1963. Re: [Alpha87a] Band switching not working

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-19 11:18:38 UTC
From: scholl@...
Topic: 1947 Message: 1963

Thanks. I was headed that direction. Barney K3LA

1964. Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-25 19:26:01 UTC
From: Bert Van Oort
Topic: 293 Message: 1964

Hi Glenn

When I turn My amp 87A on operate then we have a default
He goes directly to transmit,
We do have power, but he will not going to standby anymore.
I am thinking that there is something wrong with the pin diode.
Hope you can help me.

Regards

Bert
Pj4KY (pe2ky)

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

1965. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-26 16:01:25 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 293 Message: 1965

Bert,

Hi Bert,

It is not clear whether you actually mean “Transmit” (RF output) or if the problem is the OPR/STBY switch is not working?

If the switch is not working then first try to change OPR to STDBY using software like HB9ZS (http://www.qslnet.de/member1/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html). Software should work even if switch is mechanically broken.

If you mean that when you power on the Amp and the AMP is in TX, I would first unplug your transceivers key relay line from the back of the Alpha87a… the line may be shorted and is grounding the amp into TX all the time.

The Alpha87a has circuit protection to prevent hot-switching so if removing the key line doesn’t fix it then there may be a problem with this.

Please give us more details about the problem.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:26 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Hi Glenn

When I turn My amp 87A on operate then we have a default

He goes directly to transmit,

We do have power, but he will not going to standby anymore.

I am thinking that there is something wrong with the pin diode.

Hope you can help me.

Regards

Bert

Pj4KY (pe2ky)

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

1966. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-27 18:40:57 UTC
From: Bert Van Oort
Topic: 293 Message: 1966

Hi Glenn,

Is there a possibility that we call you, it is for me easy to talk then to write. To explain what is wrong with the amplifier.

Regards

Bert

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

Op 26 okt. 2017 om 12:12 heeft 'Jerry' jsternmd@att.net<mailto:jsternmd@att.net> [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>> het volgende geschreven:

Bert,

Hi Bert,

It is not clear whether you actually mean “Transmit” (RF output) or if the problem is the OPR/STBY switch is not working?

If the switch is not working then first try to change OPR to STDBY using software like HB9ZS (http://www.qslnet.de/member1/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html). Software should work even if switch is mechanically broken.

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Please give us more details about the problem.

73
Jerry, NY2KW

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Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:26 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com<mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

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I am thinking that there is something wrong with the pin diode.
Hope you can help me.

Regards

Bert
Pj4KY (pe2ky)

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

1967. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-28 01:24:30 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 293 Message: 1967

Hello Bert,

I do not know if Glenn from Alpha is monitoring this forum. I replied to you with some suggestions but I am not an Alpha 87a repair expert.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha 87A problem

Hi Glenn,

Is there a possibility that we call you, it is for me easy to talk then to write. To explain what is wrong with the amplifier.

Regards

Bert

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

Op 26 okt. 2017 om 12:12 heeft 'Jerry' jsternmd@... <mailto:jsternmd@...> [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> het volgende geschreven:

Bert,

Hi Bert,

It is not clear whether you actually mean “Transmit” (RF output) or if the problem is the OPR/STBY switch is not working?

If the switch is not working then first try to change OPR to STDBY using software like HB9ZS (http://www.qslnet.de/member1/hb9zs/alpha/alpha_com_en/alpha_comm_e.html). Software should work even if switch is mechanically broken.

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The Alpha87a has circuit protection to prevent hot-switching so if removing the key line doesn’t fix it then there may be a problem with this.

Please give us more details about the problem.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

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To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
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I am thinking that there is something wrong with the pin diode.

Hope you can help me.

Regards

Bert

Pj4KY (pe2ky)

Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPhone

1968. Re: Alpha 87A problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-10-29 03:22:38 UTC
From: <n0kq@...>
Topic: 293 Message: 1968

The phone number and address for Alpha RF Systems is:

Alpha RF Systems, LLC
634 South Sunset Street
Longmont CO 80501
Phone: (303) 716-7728

Bill, N0KQ

1969. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-01 16:05:03 UTC
From: doubleosevenpee@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1969

Eric,

Just before CQWW i replaced the counter chips as i was having more and more issues with the incorrect band switching.

I also run the re calibration Glenn proposed and it all sorted out 95% of my problems.

Switching towards 160m fails most of the time. All other bands are OK now and when i manually swith to 160 most of the time the amp stays in his correct segment.

When it fails he mistunes or switches to 80m

Glad i took the time to replace them and hope i can find a solution for the 160m problem

Best 73

Pat

OO7P / ON4AMI

1970. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-02 01:29:13 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1970

When it fails to switch to 160m properly,what does the serial port report as the measured frequency?

Use the HB9ZS program to read the frequency activity, if needed.

It is possible the counter is reading the second harmonic of the 160m signal. Maybe a bad cap in the counter circuit. The frequency measured and reported via the serial port when the issue occurs will give us an idea where to look next.

Eric
K2CB

1971. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-02 11:18:58 UTC
From: doubleosevenpee@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1971

Erix,

Indeed,

It reads the 2nd harmonic.

TX frq = 1875
Freq measured = 3750. (Amp was set on 10m to start)

When amp is manually put on 160 - 2 segment frq measured is 1860.

Any idea witch cap to be replaced?

I don't suspect the 0.1 µf ceramics in front of the counters.

Pat
OO7P

1972. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-03 02:22:39 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1972

Which two chips did you replace?

I would replace all four in the counter circuit, U1 U2 U3 and U4.

If you only replaced U3 and U4, I would highly suspect U1 and/or U2.

As I mentioned earlier, I highly recommend changing all four while it is apart.

The other transistors and diodes are common for all bands, so I would rule them out at this point.

Eric
K2CB

1973. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-03 08:59:06 UTC
From: doubleosevenpee@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1973

Eric,

I replaced all four. With exact same type.

Pat

1974. Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-03 16:49:13 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1974 Message: 1974

I have 2-87As and a backup and on #1 that I use regularly I lost serial communication a while back, I still have communication on amp #2. Amp #1 works 100% except for the communication issue. I was wondering if anyone has experienced this before and can offer suggestions. Now that I have a back up I can move #1 to the fix it bench.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1975. Re: Alpha 87a wrong band segment

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 01:17:29 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1912 Message: 1975

I would double check the alignment of the sensitivity pot, and the surrounding components. And double check the solder connections of the two 4520 chips. Also check D6,7,8,9,10. Not much else left.

Eric
K2CB

1976. Re: Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 01:22:40 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1974 Message: 1976

Sorry for the bandwidth. With nudging from "John" I tried a different cable and a different computer and now I have communications with both amps.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1977. Re: Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 01:26:02 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1974 Message: 1977

You can try replacing U24 (MAX232) serial interface IC. Hopefully it didn’t fail past that point; otherwise the main cou needs to be replaced..... and that is a big issue, since it needs to be loaded with amp specific data, of which may no longer be available, unless Brad or Glenn has access to the original configuration data for your particular amp. You could possibly read the data out of another amp close in serial number, and get it close enough to work, but that is just a guess. I’ve never had to do it yet.

Eric
K2CB

1978. Re: Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 01:27:24 UTC
From: k2cb@...
Topic: 1974 Message: 1978

Good to hear it was something simple.

1979. Re: Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 08:03:40 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 1974 Message: 1979

Mike,

If you haven't already, plug the serial cable from one of the amps that has working comm into the amp that doesn't have working comm. That'll reveal if it's a bad cable or bad COM port on the computer.

If it still doesn't work, check the 25-pin connector in the 87A. If that's not the problem, trace the wires from the connector to the CPU board and make sure they haven't been damaged or nicked.

If there's no problem with the cable, connector or leads, then most likely it's either the RS232 level converter, which I believe is a MAX232, or the CPU. The MAX232 is relatively easy to replace, though I don't think it's socketed. CPU replacement will require shipping the amp to Alpha or Brad.

Note that the CPU's I/O ports are internally fused, so you can lose RS232 communication but the amp will still work.

I lost the MAX232 and the CPU serial I/O port from a lightning surge. I replaced the MAX232 myself, but Brad had to do the CPU replacement. Luckily, he was visiting NH and I was able to drive the amp to him for repair-while-waiting.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w9re@...> wrote :

I have 2-87As and a backup and on #1 that I use regularly I lost serial communication a while back, I still have communication on amp #2. Amp #1 works 100% except for the communication issue. I was wondering if anyone has experienced this before and can offer suggestions. Now that I have a back up I can move #1 to the fix it bench.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

1980. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Lost Serial Communication

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-11-04 14:43:57 UTC
From: K4RO Kirk Pickering
Topic: 1974 Message: 1980

Mike,

I know that you've solved the problem already, but here is another data point for those having similar trouble in the future. I discovered through trial and error that one of my 87A's (Alpha Power vintage) requires that pin 22 be disconnected at the amp end of the DB-25. If I don't have pin 22 disconnected, that amp won't communicate serially. The other 87A (an older ETO version) does serial communication perfectly, regardless of whether pin 22 is connected or not.

--Kirk K4RO

On 11/4/2017 3:03 AM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
>
> Mike,
>
> If you haven't already, plug the serial cable from one of the amps that
> has working comm into the amp that doesn't have working comm. That'll
> reveal if it's a bad cable or bad COM port on the computer.
>
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> that's not the problem, trace the wires from the connector to the CPU
> board and make sure they haven't been damaged or nicked.
>
> If there's no problem with the cable, connector or leads, then most
> likely it's either the RS232 level converter, which I believe is a
> MAX232, or the CPU. The MAX232 is relatively easy to replace, though I
> don't think it's socketed. CPU replacement will require shipping the amp
> to Alpha or Brad.
>
> Note that the CPU's I/O ports are internally fused, so you can lose
> RS232 communication but the amp will still work.
>
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> replaced the MAX232 myself, but Brad had to do the CPU replacement.
> Luckily, he was visiting NH and I was able to drive the amp to him for
> repair-while-waiting.
>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
> ---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <w9re@...> wrote :
>
>
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> communication a while back, I still have communication on amp #2. Amp
> #1 works 100% except for the communication issue. I was wondering if
> anyone has experienced this before and can offer suggestions. Now that
> I have a back up I can move #1 to the fix it bench.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Mike W9RE
>
>
>
>
>

1981. Replacing Rocker Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-08 01:03:23 UTC
From: Frank Kirschner
Topic: 1981 Message: 1981

I need to replace the standby-operate switch on my '87A. Any hints on the easiest way to remove the old one? What tool/approach works best?

Thanks.

73,
Frank
KF6E

1982. Re: [Alpha87a] Replacing Rocker Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-08 01:26:40 UTC
From: Brian Moran
Topic: 1981 Message: 1982

I 'serviced' the hi low switch recently. It was not hard to access at all, no special tools I can recall. Screwdrivers. You might find that rotating the switch 180 degrees and using the other set of contacts may save finding a new switch since they are dpdt. It's also a good idea with the hi/lo switch to just wire it to 'hi'
-Brian N9ADG

Sent via iPhone

> On Dec 7, 2017, at 5:03 PM, Frank Kirschner frank.kirschner@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> I need to replace the standby-operate switch on my '87A. Any hints on the easiest way to remove the old one? What tool/approach works best?
>
> Thanks.
>
> 73,
> Frank
> KF6E
>
>
>

1983. Re: [Alpha87a] Replacing Rocker Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-08 04:14:54 UTC
From: Frank Kirschner
Topic: 1981 Message: 1983

Brian,

Good idea about just rotating the switch. I do have a replacement, but I might keep that as a spare.

Thanks.

73,
Frank
KF6E

On Thu, Dec 7, 2017 at 8:26 PM, Brian Moran brianmo@... [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I 'serviced' the hi low switch recently. It was not hard to access at all,
> no special tools I can recall. Screwdrivers. You might find that rotating
> the switch 180 degrees and using the other set of contacts may save finding
> a new switch since they are dpdt. It's also a good idea with the hi/lo
> switch to just wire it to 'hi'
> -Brian N9ADG
>
> Sent via iPhone
>
> On Dec 7, 2017, at 5:03 PM, Frank Kirschner frank.kirschner@...
> [Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
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> easiest way to remove the old one? What tool/approach works best?
>
> Thanks.
>
> 73,
> Frank
> KF6E
>
>
>

1984. Re: [Alpha87a] Replacing Rocker Switch

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-08 17:46:49 UTC
From: Bob Sitterley
Topic: 1981 Message: 1984

Frank:

I r4emoved mine and turned it over moving the NO wire to ther other side.

Bob K7POF

On 12/7/2017 6:03 PM, Frank Kirschner frank.kirschner@...
[Alpha87a] wrote:
> I need to replace the standby-operate switch on my '87A. Any hints on
> the easiest way to remove the old one? What tool/approach works best?
>
> Thanks.
>
> 73,
> Frank
> KF6E
>

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
https://www.avast.com/antivirus

1985. Alpha 87A turn on help

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-13 19:14:48 UTC
From: Jeffrey Stricker
Topic: 1985 Message: 1985

Hello all,

This is my first post to the forum, and first let me thank the moderator for giving me access. I recently purchased an ETO Alpha 87A from the estate of an SK ham friend. It appears to be an early production model, S/N 92500476. After carefully going over all the internals, I hooked it up and discovered it would not turn on. So after some research I got it connected up to a hyper-terminal and read the fault logs as follows:

SF = 35 11 35 11 35 181 35 11 (don't understand what 181 is?)
HF = 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Based on this, I decided it was not in a lock up state due to excessive hard faults. I then started trouble shooting the best I could --- I'm primarily an analog person and have worked on a bunch of amps over the years, but my logic trouble shooting is a bit hit and miss. I first removed the power transformer and proceeded using the 5V auxilary supply. I checked all the obvious stuff - continuity through the "off" switch, resistance of the "on" switch, molex connectors, etc, etc. Then I started measuring logic levels: the 5 V aux supply is correct and is going to all the IC Vcc pins that the schematic shows. But I noticed most of the common logic connections between the IC's (D/0 - D/7 and A/0 - A/7) were*_NOT_* 5 or 0 volts --- some were 3.8, 2.8V, or 1.6 volts (not sure what voltages to expect with 74HC series). Well, that didn't make sense, so (based upon some intuition) I started changing IC's. I carefully removed U16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and U6. Placed sockets and installed new IC's. No change in logic voltages or operation of the relay. When I press the "on" switch, the main relay closes for a very short time and then opens. The second relay (across the varistors) never closes. That was a lot of "brain surgery", but I discovered a lot of what _wasn't wrong_. Then I pulled U9 from its socket (which is some sort of a programmable gate array) and the A/0 - A/7 voltages returned to zero or 5 volts. That was not the case pulling U 10 from its socket. Hmmmm, something fishy with U 9, maybe? (I pulled U9 and U10 individually, so only one was removed at a time)

So, where it stands now (just as it started out, after all my hours of tinkering) :

Press "ON" button
1st relay fires momentarily
Terminal reads:
```
      ALPHA 87A
      VERSION 1.00 - AT
      COPYRIGHT 1992, 1999
      ALPHA/POWER, INC.
```

POWER ON SEQUENCE
AMPLIFIER IS OFF

If I haven't put you to sleep with all this discussion, my question (s) are: Am I missing something obvious here, or could I be into an issue with the programmed logic IC's (U9) or is it time for the cadaver to be sent to someone skilled in troubleshooting Alpha amps? This is way too nice of a piece of gear to put it on a shelf. Any advice is appreciated.

73 Jeff W9GY

1986. IC-7000 with Alpha 87a - Any problems?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-14 04:55:23 UTC
From: jsternmd@...
Topic: 1986 Message: 1986

My Flex 6700 is out of commission for 4-8w. I want to use my IC-7000 with my 87a but have heard that there may be some hot switching due to timing sequence. Has anyone checked a IC-7K with their Alpha 87A,

I guess I can check on a scope myself but thought if someone has done this already.....

Jerry NY2KW

1987. Re: [Alpha87a] IC-7000 with Alpha 87a - Any problems?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-14 12:17:18 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 1986 Message: 1987

I use mine with an IC-7600. I always use the Ameritron ARB-704 between my rigs and amps. It is a relay buffer that eliminates that type of problem and saves the radio. It was recommended to me by ICOM repair in Michigan. I will add that the other repair had nothing to due with use of the amp and was on another radio. I just said I was going to hook my 7600 up to the 87A and was told to use this or something similar to protect the rig. I have had zero problems.

Larry K8YYY

"Never interrupt some one doing something you said couldn't be done"
Amelia Earhart

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
http://www.avg.com

1988. Alpha 87A for sale - excellent condition

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-16 18:43:33 UTC
From: petervee@...
Topic: 1988 Message: 1988

I am making available for sale my Alpha 87A. It is located in Luxembourg. Kept in a heated garage as it is not being used (I prefer to use my manual linear amplifier).
Looks new and kept clean. Works 100%. Tubes 100%. Full power output.
Buyer must come see, test and take linear amplifier. NO Shipping.
Price 2500 euros.
It is currently on ebay.de at:

https://www.ebay.de/itm/282773501644 https://www.ebay.de/itm/282773501644

You can see photos there.

Let me know if you have questions.
73s, LX1QF

1989. fault 22, 36 volt circuit fuse FS1 blown, any ideas ?

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-16 20:49:36 UTC
From: marko.l.myllymaki@...
Topic: 1989 Message: 1989

Hello,
Some time ago just before some contest one of my 87A had some following symptoms if I recall correctly:
-faint burning smell
-when ptt was activated, couple plate current LEDs may have been lit without any RF in
-amp would turn off after inserting drive from transceiver, then it would turn off soon after warm up, then before warm up was completed etc.
Contest was starting so I was in hurry to swap it out and put old 78 on desk instead.
Yesterday I then started to investigate what was going on with 87A.
Now it would immediately turn off after trying to power on.
There are series of Fault 22s registered when connecting to it with computer.
Step start fuse is OK but 36 volt FS1 fuse is blown.
I don't have replacement fuse on hand and it would probably blow again anyway if root cause is not corrected.
Visually I cannot see any issues or any burnt parts.
Few months ago I very carefully swapped blower on this amp and I was using it without any problems for 2-3 months after it, so I don't think the problems are related.
Any ideas where to go from here ?
73 de Marko N5ZO

1990. Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-16 22:47:39 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1990 Message: 1990

Hello everyone,
Wishing you a happy Holiday. Now on to my problem,as you can see in the subject, I am getting a fault 20 some times, it doesn't happen all the time but it does bother me. As it says in the manual that I may have a filament going south. Is there anyway of testing these tubes for this problem? I am also starting to look for replacement tubes and looking for suggestions on where to get some and what anyone might feel about PULLS.

Thanks for any help you can give
73
Brian

1991. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-18 23:58:35 UTC
From: Glenn Rattmann
Topic: 1990 Message: 1991

Brian, this is likely a false fault. When I encountered a similar situation some years back, I received factory advice:
Unplug power and all cables from amp;
Remove cabinet wraparound;
Stand up the amp on one end, so bottom faces you: Tip "light" end of chassis up, keeping transformer end down;
Remove bottom access plate below the tube subchassis;
(Good time now to vacuum out any dust in the tubes or tube box.);
Find all the plugs/connectors inside the box, note orientation and remove them carefully one at a time, pushing each one on and off the pins several times to clean the contact points. Some Deoxit could be used for extra insurance here.

This technique usually works to clear the 'incorrect' filament current faults seen with these amps.

73,
Glenn K6NA

At 02:47 PM 12/16/2017, you wrote:
>
>
>Hello everyone,
>Wishing you a happy Holiday. Now on to my problem,as you can see in
>the subject, I am getting a fault 20 some times, it doesn't happen
>all the time but it does bother me. As it says in the manual that I
>may have a filament going south. Is there anyway of testing these
>tubes for this problem? I am also starting to look for replacement
>tubes and looking for suggestions on where to get some and what
>anyone might feel about PULLS.
>
>Thanks for any help you can give
>73
>Brian
>
>
>
>
>----------
>Posted by: w8tfi@...

1992. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-19 17:19:42 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 1990 Message: 1992

I went through this a number of years back on one of mine and after I cleaned the connector it was OK for a year and then the same thing happened. I fixed it by brute force. I soldered around the connector on both ends of the cable and I have not seen this problem again. Evidently it was a bad crimp tool.

Mike W9RE

1993. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-21 01:02:19 UTC
From: jking2603@gmail.com
Topic: 1990 Message: 1993

on ebay there are new 3cx800s for medical equipment for about $500
fro zl4ai

On Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 6:19 AM, w9re@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> I went through this a number of years back on one of mine and after I
> cleaned the connector it was OK for a year and then the same thing
> happened. I fixed it by brute force. I soldered around the connector on
> both ends of the cable and I have not seen this problem again. Evidently
> it was a bad crimp tool.
>
>
> Mike W9RE
>
>
>

1994. Re: Fault 20

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-21 17:28:48 UTC
From: w8tfi@...
Topic: 1990 Message: 1994

Thank you all for the help, I am going to try to clean all the connectors in the RF deck before going out and buying tubes, but again a Big Thank you for the help.
Have a blessed Holiday for you and your Family's.

Brian
W8TFI

1995. Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-23 17:24:44 UTC
From: dgb
Topic: 1990 Message: 1995

Is anyone successfully using the Alpha 87A Remote Control software by DF3CB?

TIA 73 Dwight NS9I

1996. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the intern et

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-23 17:47:15 UTC
From: W4AAW@aol.com
Topic: 1996 Message: 1996
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

1997. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-23 19:03:13 UTC
From: dgb
Topic: 1990 Message: 1997

I can get it to turn the amp on but that's it. The Remote/Client setup works, but again, only for turning it on.

I use HB9ZS'S as well, just wish it had a Server/Client function.

tnx 73 Dwight NS9I

On 12/23/2017 11:47 AM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> I used to use it but, for some reason, I can't get it to open now. It
> was fabulous when it worked.
>
> Now use the HB9ZS (?) app.
>
> 73 Mike W4AAW
>
> See www.remotecontesting.com <http://www.remotecontesting.com>
>
> ----- Reply message -----
> From: "dgb ns9i@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet
> Date: Sat, Dec 23, 2017 12:24 PM
>
> Is anyone successfully using the Alpha 87A Remote Control software by
> DF3CB?
>
> TIA 73 Dwight NS9I
>
>

1998. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-23 23:58:03 UTC
From: George
Topic: 1990 Message: 1998

Dwight I could never get HB9ZS’s program to work and used a program put out by Alpha. Alpha’s program allows looking at errors and even writing memory which is dangerous.

George K W2YJ

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

I can get it to turn the amp on but that's it. The Remote/Client setup works, but again, only for turning it on.

I use HB9ZS'S as well, just wish it had a Server/Client function.

tnx 73 Dwight NS9I

On 12/23/2017 11:47 AM, 'W4AAW@...' w4aaw@...m [Alpha87a] wrote:

I used to use it but, for some reason, I can't get it to open now. It was fabulous when it worked.

Now use the HB9ZS (?) app.

73 Mike W4AAW

See www.remotecontesting.com

----- Reply message -----
From: "dgb ns9i@... [Alpha87a]" <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
To: <mailto:Alpha87a@...m> <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet
Date: Sat, Dec 23, 2017 12:24 PM

Is anyone successfully using the Alpha 87A Remote Control software by DF3CB?

TIA 73 Dwight NS9I

1999. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2017-12-24 00:08:42 UTC
From: Larry Boekeloo
Topic: 1990 Message: 1999

Same here.

Larry, KN8N

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

"'George' goofyham@rochester.rr.com [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
>Dwight I could never get HB9ZS’s program to work and used a program put out by Alpha. Alpha’s program allows looking at errors and even writing memory which is dangerous.
>
>
>
>George K W2YJ
>
>
>
>From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
>Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2017 2:03 PM
>To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet
>
>
>
>
>
>I can get it to turn the amp on but that's it. The Remote/Client setup works, but again, only for turning it on.
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>
>tnx 73 Dwight NS9I
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>
>
>
>
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>
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>

>
>
>Now use the HB9ZS (?) app.
>
>
>
>73 Mike W4AAW
>
>
>
>See www.remotecontesting.com
>
>
>
>----- Reply message -----
>From: "dgb ns9i@bayland.net [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
>To: <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
>Subject: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet
>Date: Sat, Dec 23, 2017 12:24 PM
>
>
>
>
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>
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>
>
>
>
>
><!-- #ygrp-mkp { border: 1px solid #d8d8d8; font-family: Arial; margin: 10px 0; padding: 0 10px; } #ygrp-mkp hr { border: 1px solid #d8d8d8; } #ygrp-mkp #hd { color: #628c2a; font-size: 85%; font-weight: 700; line-height: 122%; margin: 10px 0; } #ygrp-mkp #ads { margin-bottom: 10px; } #ygrp-mkp .ad { padding: 0 0; } #ygrp-mkp .ad p { margin: 0; } #ygrp-mkp .ad a { color: #0000ff; text-decoration: none; } #ygrp-sponsor #ygrp-lc { font-family: Arial; } #ygrp-sponsor #ygrp-lc #hd { margin: 10px 0px; font-weight: 700; font-size: 78%; line-height: 122%; } #ygrp-sponsor #ygrp-lc .ad { margin-bottom: 10px; padding: 0 0; } #actions { font-family: Verdana; font-size: 11px; padding: 10px 0; } #activity { background-color: #e0ecee; float: left; font-family: Verdana; font-size: 10px; padding: 10px; } #activity span { font-weight: 700; } #activity span:first-child { text-transform: uppercase; } #activity span a { color: #5085b6; text-decoration: none; } #activity span span { color: #ff7900; } #activity span .underline { text-decoration: underline; } .attach { clear: both; display: table; font-family: Arial; font-size: 12px; padding: 10px 0; width: 400px; } .attach div a { text-decoration: none; } .attach img { border: none; padding-right: 5px; } .attach label { display: block; margin-bottom: 5px; } .attach label a { text-decoration: none; } blockquote { margin: 0 0 0 4px; } .bold { font-family: Arial; font-size: 13px; font-weight: 700; } .bold a { text-decoration: none; } dd.last p a { font-family: Verdana; font-weight: 700; } dd.last p span { margin-right: 10px; font-family: Verdana; font-weight: 700; } dd.last p span.yshortcuts { margin-right:

0; } div.attach-table div div a { text-decoration: none; } div.attach-table { width: 400px; } div.file-title a, div.file-title a:active, div.file-title a:hover, div.file-title a:visited { text-decoration: none; } div.photo-title a, div.photo-title a:active, div.photo-title a:hover, div..photo-title a:visited { text-decoration: none; } div#ygrp-mlmsg #ygrp-msg p a span.yshortcuts { font-family: Verdana; font-size: 10px; font-weight: normal; } .green { color: #628c2a; } .MsoNormal { margin: 0 0 0 0; } o { font-size: 0; } #photos div { float: left; width: 72px; } #photos div div { border: 1px solid #666666; height: 62px; overflow: hidden; width: 62px; } #photos div label { color: #666666; font-size: 10px; overflow: hidden; text-align: center; white-space: nowrap; width: 64px; } #reco-category { font-size: 77%; } #reco-desc { font-size: 77%; } .replbq { margin: 4px; } #ygrp-actbar div a:first-child { /* border-right: 0px solid #000;*/ margin-right: 2px; padding-right: 5px; } #ygrp-mlmsg { font-size: 13px; font-family: Arial, helvetica,clean, sans-serif; *font-size: small; *font: x-small; } #ygrp-mlmsg table { font-size: inherit; font: 100%; } #ygrp-mlmsg select, input, textarea { font: 99% Arial, Helvetica, clean, sans-serif; } #ygrp-mlmsg pre, code { font:115% monospace; *font-size:100%; } #ygrp-mlmsg * { line-height: 1.22em; } #ygrp-mlmsg #logo { padding-bottom: 10px; } #ygrp-msg p a { font-family: Verdana; } #ygrp-msg p#attach-count span { color: #1E66AE; font-weight: 700; } #ygrp-reco #reco-head { color: #ff7900; font-weight: 700; } #ygrp-reco { margin-bottom: 20px; padding: 0px; } #ygrp-sponsor #ov li a { font-size: 130%; text-decoration: none; } #ygrp-sponsor #ov li { font-size: 77%; list-style-type: square; padding: 6px 0; } #ygrp-sponsor #ov ul { margin: 0; padding: 0 0 0 8px; } #ygrp-text { font-family: Georgia; } #ygrp-text p { margin: 0 0 1em 0; } #ygrp-text tt { font-size: 120%; } #ygrp-vital ul li:last-child { border-right: none !important; } -->

2000. Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-03 22:35:07 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1990 Message: 2000

I have been remoting for 3 years using a FLEX and the Alpha 87a with an auto antenna tuner.

I used remote servers in years past but it is such an easy set up to just utilize a “remote desktop” program like TeamViewer.

And yes, the program I use to control the Alpha is DF3CB. It works perfectly.

Here is how I set it up:

I took a 25 pin male RS232 to 9 pin RS232 adapter and connected pins 8, 10, 13 and 22 on the 25 pin side. A small piece of hookup wire woven around and then soldered to the base of the pins is all that is necessary. (I already had this so put it to good use)

Then I plugged a 9 pin RS232 to USB converter plug into the aforementioned adapter. (this is much more common and way less expensive than a single 25 pin RS232 to USB converter although it doesn’t look as compact.

A USB cable connects all that to a computer USB jack.

Then simply configure the port utilizing an unused real COM port (versus virtual). I think mine is COM4.

Mine took off right away.

All of the parameters offered by DF3CB are working.

You can probably buy something much less McGiver looking but I already had these things on hand.

73’s John / K7RLD

2001. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-03 23:23:46 UTC
From: dgb
Topic: 1990 Message: 2001

Thank you very much John. That is what I do now is with teamviewer but the other would be much more elegant for sure.

73 Dwight NS9I

On 1/3/2018 4:35 PM, John Morris k7rld@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> I have been remoting for 3 years using a FLEX and the Alpha 87a with
> an auto antenna tuner..
>
> I used remote servers in years past but it is such an easy set up to
> just utilize a “remote desktop” program like TeamViewer.
>
> And yes, the program I use to control the Alpha is DF3CB. It works
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> doesn’t look as compact.
>
> A USB cable connects all that to a computer USB jack.
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> Then simply configure the port utilizing an unused real COM port
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>
> All of the parameters offered by DF3CB are working.
>
> You can probably buy something much less McGiver looking but I already
> had these things on hand.
>
> 73’s John / K7RLD
>
>

2002. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-04 02:38:51 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1990 Message: 2002

Hi John,

HNY—what auto tuner are you using? I want to remote my FLEX and 87a also.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@...m [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 03, 2018 5:35 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

I have been remoting for 3 years using a FLEX and the Alpha 87a with an auto antenna tuner.

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And yes, the program I use to control the Alpha is DF3CB. It works perfectly.

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A USB cable connects all that to a computer USB jack.

Then simply configure the port utilizing an unused real COM port (versus virtual). I think mine is COM4.

Mine took off right away.

All of the parameters offered by DF3CB are working.

You can probably buy something much less McGiver looking but I already had these things on hand.

73’s John / K7RLD

2003. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-04 14:40:59 UTC
From: hb9zs@...
Topic: 1990 Message: 2003

Hi Dwight
Did you try a program that allows you to use the Alpha 87a communication program on the home Computer and the Alpha 87a Amplifier via an Ethernet to Serial converter at the remote site?
Some applications are described on the following links:
https://www.eltima.com/rs232-over-ip/ https://www.eltima.com/rs232-over-ip/
https://www.lantronix.com/products/uds1100-uds1100-poe/
https://www.lantronix.com/products/uds1100-uds1100-poe/
http://www.taltech.com/tcpcom http://www.taltech.com/tcpcom
https://www.perle.com/products/rs232-to-ethernet.shtml
https://www.perle.com/products/rs232-to-ethernet.shtml
https://gridconnect.com/rs232-to-ethernet.html
https://gridconnect.com/rs232-to-ethernet.html

73, Walter, HB9ZS

2004. Re: [Alpha87a] Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-04 19:29:41 UTC
From: dgb
Topic: 1990 Message: 2004

Thank you for the references Walter.

I will take a look at these options in the future.

73 Dwight NS9I

On 1/4/2018 8:40 AM, hb9zs@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
> Hi Dwight
>
> Did you try a program that allows you to use the Alpha 87a
> communication program on the home Computer and the Alpha 87a Amplifier
> via an Ethernet to Serial converter at the remote site?
>
> Some applications are described on the following links:
>
> _https://www.eltima.com/rs232-over-ip/_
>
> _https://www.lantronix.com/products/uds1100-uds1100-poe/_
>
> _http://www.taltech.com/tcpcom_
>
> _https://www.perle.com/products/rs232-to-ethernet.shtml_
>
> _https://gridconnect.com/rs232-to-ethernet.html_
>
> 73, Walter, HB9ZS
>
>

2005. Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-05 01:38:43 UTC
From: John Morris
Topic: 1990 Message: 2005

Hi Jerry.

I use an early MFJ 998RT as my autotuner but I would use the plain MFJ998 desk model if I had it to do over again.

Love to have the Palstar but that’s a bit out of my league. The MFJ works fine, most of the time.

73’s John / K7RLD

2006. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-05 03:31:11 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 1990 Message: 2006

That’s some coincidence… I have Flex 6700, Alpha 87a and here at the new qth I could only put up a multiband dipole with ladder line so I bought the MFJ998RT. It seems to be working OK so far.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 8:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Alpha87a remoting over the internet

Hi Jerry.

I use an early MFJ 998RT as my autotuner but I would use the plain MFJ998 desk model if I had it to do over again.

Love to have the Palstar but that’s a bit out of my league. The MFJ works fine, most of the time.

73’s John / K7RLD

2007. Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-10 22:22:08 UTC
From: Andy Cook
Topic: 2007 Message: 2007

Hi and thank you for letting me join the group.
I have an Alpha 87A which, after being turned on for the first time in just over a year, gave a small pop (I think) and immediately started to show fault 24. When last used the amp was working fine and it's not been plugged in or connected to any antennas for the past year - just sat on fhe floor of the shack at home after coming home from the contest site.

I'm out of time to work on this tonight, but I thought I'd ask a couple of questions just to try and see if there is any knowledge which will help me find the issue more quickly tomorrow.
I've seen the fault 24 diagnosis sheet in the files area.

I've checked the -109V rail across the 18R resistor pair which feed the input circuit board. This is showing only about -33V, and the resistance to ground at this point measures 88K in one direction on the test meter and about 280K in the other direction. From the comments on the reflector, I would suspect a PIN diode fault, but people generally talk about seeing fault 8 or 9 in that situation- I'm consistently getting fault 24.
Does anyone know if fault 24 can be associated with a PIN fault, or should I be looking elsewhere (or at a particular set of PINs)?
73 & many thanks
Andy Cook, G4PIQ

2008. 87a Grid and Plate Current

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-11 00:17:30 UTC
From: Donald Birx
Topic: 2008 Message: 2008

Can anyone tell me the bias on the grid and plate should be when the 87a is keyed and there is no input? Thanks, Don

2009. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-11 02:07:55 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 2007 Message: 2009

Here are fault 24 tips I have collected along the years.

1st (and hopefully for you):

Benign causes of Fault 24 --- A spurious Fault 24 can be caused when your 87A has been left connected to the mains supply for an extended period of time. Whenever the 87A is connected to the mains supply, the micro processor is running - a simple brown-out can cause the processor to partially reset and generate a fault 24. Although this fault is difficult to diagnose and frequently amps with this problem have to return to us for repair - about 30% of the time simply unplugging the amp from the line voltage to reset it and then letting it warm up normally will cure the problem.

More Involved causes of Fault 24--

1) Do you notice that the amp is always on the same band when this happens?

2) Check the AC mains voltage and what you have the 87A set for. You must measure the AC voltage with a digital multimeter, the actual voltage must be within +/- 10 vac of what the amp is set for. Your line voltage may vary quite a bit from one season to another.

3) Unplug the amp and remove the cover. On the AC voltage selection terminal strip, the heavy white wire goes on the first of 4 terminals and does not move. For 240vac, the other heavy white wire should be on the 4th screw terminal (2 empty screws between them).

4) Visually check that connector J3 on the right rear edge of the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS) is plugged onto the pins on the LVPS circuit board. This connector is just below the horizontal circuit board, and next to the white supporting post. It can be pulled loose when installing the transformer. Look at the red connectors in the same area of the LVPS to be sure they are all plugged in.

5) Measure from the gold-colored resistor on the chassis of the amp (left side of RF section) to ground to see if it is shorted to the chassis. You should measure 18 ohms across the two parallel resistors. The resistance to the chassis on either end should be more than 100 kohms. If it is too low it will drag down the -109vdc.

6) Look carefully at the monoblock HV bridge rectifier on the HV circuit board (about 1.5" square, black, 4 leads coming out of it), inspect it to be sure there are no burned areas or signs of arcing. If it is mounted under the HV circuit board, it may have fallen off the board and be shorting to something.

7) Check the three resistors R15, R16, R17 (all 1 megohm, measure about 667k in the circuit), R20 (measures 3.8k to ground) and R38 (1 kohm), all located on the left side of the HV circuit board. This is the HV monitoring circuit and can cause Fault 24 even if the HV is good.

8) Check transistors and regulator on the right side of the HV circuit board, be sure they are not bent or broken.

Pay particular attention to point 7) above - if the metering resistors have failed you'll get a Fault 24 that is really easy to diagnose and repair - those resistors look like a string of hot dogs.....

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

Hi and thank you for letting me join the group.

I have an Alpha 87A which, after being turned on for the first time in just over a year, gave a small pop (I think) and immediately started to show fault 24. When last used the amp was working fine and it's not been plugged in or connected to any antennas for the past year - just sat on fhe floor of the shack at home after coming home from the contest site.

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Does anyone know if fault 24 can be associated with a PIN fault, or should I be looking elsewhere (or at a particular set of PINs)?

73 & many thanks

Andy Cook, G4PIQ

2010. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-12 00:33:58 UTC
From: Andy Cook
Topic: 2007 Message: 2010

Thank you all for your helpful suggestions. After much worrying about PIN diodes and the -109V rail and investigations in that area, I think I may have located the problem. It looks like D1 - the Bridge Rectifier for the +/- 36V rail on the Low Voltage Board has had a diode fail short circuit. This in turn put a short across the 51V winding on the transformer and burnt a trace on the PCB. I think the trace going was probably the 'pop' I heard. I'll hopefully get to replace that tomorrow evening and if I'm lucky have a second amp for a domestic contest on Saturday - assuming I haven't broken anything else in the process.
BTW - the bridge rectifier looks to have been under specified in the first place. It'a an RS401L part which is only rated at 50V PIV (or 35V RMS). I think it will see more like 90V PIV in this application.
Very useful to have the fault 99 clear commands on the site as well - shorting the appropriate pins on the serial connector didn't work for me as I got to 6 faults in a row, but the terminal commands did.

I'll let you know how I finish up.
73
Andy, G4PIQ

On Thursday, 11 January 2018, 2:13, "'Jerry' jsternmd@... [Alpha87a]" <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Here are fault 24 tips I have collected along the years. 1st (and hopefully for you): Benign causes of Fault 24 --- A spurious Fault 24 can be caused when your 87A has been left connected to the mains supply for an extended period of time. Whenever the 87A is connected to the mains supply, the micro processor is running - a simple brown-out can cause the processor to partially reset and generate a fault 24. Although this fault is difficult to diagnose and frequently amps with this problem have to return to us for repair - about 30% of the time simply unplugging the amp from the line voltage to reset it and then letting it warm up normally will cure the problem. More Involved causes of Fault 24--1) Do you notice that the amp is always on the same band when this happens?2) Check the AC mains voltage and what you have the 87A set for. You must measure the AC voltage with a digital multimeter, the actual voltage must be within +/- 10 vac of what the amp is set for. Your line voltage may vary quite a bit from one season to another.3) Unplug the amp and remove the cover. On the AC voltage selection terminal strip, the heavy white wire goes on the first of 4 terminals and does not move. For 240vac, the other heavy white wire should be on the 4th screw terminal (2 empty screws between them).4) Visually check that connector J3 on the right rear edge of the Low Voltage Power Supply (LVPS) is plugged onto the pins on the LVPS circuit board. This connector is just below the horizontal circuit board, and next to the white supporting post. It can be pulled loose when installing the transformer. Look at the red connectors in the same area of the LVPS to be sure they are all plugged in.5) Measure from the gold-colored resistor on the chassis of the amp (left side of RF section) to ground to see if it is shorted to the chassis. You should measure 18 ohms across the two parallel resistors. The resistance to the chassis on either end should be more than 100 kohms. If it is too low it will drag down the -109vdc.6) Look carefully at the monoblock HV bridge rectifier on the HV circuit board (about 1.5" square, black, 4

leads coming out of it), inspect it to be sure there are no burned areas or signs of arcing. If it is mounted under the HV circuit board, it may have fallen off the board and be shorting to something.7) Check the three resistors R15, R16, R17 (all 1 megohm, measure about 667k in the circuit), R20 (measures 3.8k to ground) and R38 (1 kohm), all located on the left side of the HV circuit board. This is the HV monitoring circuit and can cause Fault 24 even if the HV is good.8) Check transistors and regulator on the right side of the HV circuit board, be sure they are not bent or broken. Pay particular attention to point 7) above - if the metering resistors have failed you'll get a Fault 24 that is really easy to diagnose and repair - those resistors look like a string of hot dogs..... 73Jerry, NY2KW From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 5:22 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 24 Hi and thank you for letting me join the group. I have an Alpha 87A which, after being turned on for the first time in just over a year, gave a small pop (I think) and immediately started to show fault 24. When last used the amp was working fine and it's not been plugged in or connected to any antennas for the past year - just sat on fhe floor of the shack at home after coming home from the contest site. I'm out of time to work on this tonight, but I thought I'd ask a couple of questions just to try and see if there is any knowledge which will help me find the issue more quickly tomorrow. I've seen the fault 24 diagnosis sheet in the files area. I've checked the -109V rail across the 18R resistor pair which feed the input circuit board. This is showing only about -33V, and the resistance to ground at this point measures 88K in one direction on the test meter and about 280K in the other direction. From the comments on the reflector, I would suspect a PIN diode fault, but people generally talk about seeing fault 8 or 9 in that situation- I'm consistently getting fault 24. Does anyone know if fault 24 can be associated with a PIN fault, or should I be looking elsewhere (or at a particular set of PINs)? 73 & many thanks
 Andy Cook, G4PIQ

2011. 1,25A fuse burn and Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-12 09:02:48 UTC
From: f5ozf@...
Topic: 2011 Message: 2011

Hello to all,

Warmup is ok
when i go in transmit on any bands 1,25A fuse blowing each time with fault 24
I have check every tips on fault24.txt
Voltage Ok, nothing has bent, resistors ok ....
Maybe you have a hint for help me ?

Thanks by advance

73
Michel F5OZF

2012. Re: 1,25A fuse burn and Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-12 12:45:33 UTC
From: andyg4piq@...
Topic: 2011 Message: 2012

If the 1.25A step start fuse is blowing, it could be that the step start relay (K2 on AC module) is not being switched out of circuit. That would probably show Fault 24 as the voltage rails dipped as the amp draws more power through the two step start varistors when you go to Tx.

I see the step start is controlled from the microprocessor, so hopefully it is something simple like a poor connector connection or a dead relay.

73

Andy,G4PIQ

2013. Re: 1,25A fuse burn and Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-12 17:28:18 UTC
From: f5ozf@...
Topic: 2011 Message: 2013

Hello Andy

Thank you for your reply
i will check this relay and see

Michel F5OZF

2014. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-14 21:53:16 UTC
From: andyg4piq@...
Topic: 2007 Message: 2014

A quick update on this. I replaced the bridge rectifier and repaired the various burnt tracks and got to the position where the amplifier powered up OK with no errors. Once warmed up I sent it into transmit with no drive applied. There was a fizzing noise from the amp and a smell of burning, and then fault 7. Repeating applying the PTT usually delivered fault 7, but sometimes fault 9..

I took the amp apart - again - and found a fault on the Low Voltage supply board - again. This time Q1 and Q3 are dead (Q3 has a hole in it...) - and resistor R4 is completely vaporised. To vaporise a resistor like that and to send Q1 E-C short circuit suggests to me that one of the high voltage rails ended up getting applied to the T_BIAS line. I can't see how the HT would have ended up there, but the 870V R_BIAS line does live close to the T_BIAS line on the Output TR board and if D6 and D11 went short circuit - this could happen. But D6 and D11 measure OK.

I'm pretty sure during fault finding I measured a near short (1 ohm or so) to ground on T_BIAS on the Output T/R board which went when I removed J2 on that board - but I can't now replicate that.

I rather worry that I have a lose washer or bit of wire in the amp rattling around and causing random shorts - I'll have to look hard for that.

Just posting these comments in case anyone has seen anything like this before. It will be a few days before I can get back to this again...

73,

Andy, G4PIQ

2015. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-01-15 04:51:31 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 2007 Message: 2015

I would search this group for a lengthy story by Dick WC1M (who experienced weird fault 9 (and 8 and 11) due to a carbon arc just underneath L1. I think somewhere also mentioned that if one of the 3CX800 are not seated correctly it could give a Fault 9. A problem with the error codes is that the reporting is sequential but not necessarily in order of first or last point of failure.

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2018 4:53 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 24

A quick update on this. I replaced the bridge rectifier and repaired the various burnt tracks and got to the position where the amplifier powered up OK with no errors. Once warmed up I sent it into transmit with no drive applied. There was a fizzing noise from the amp and a smell of burning, and then fault 7. Repeating applying the PTT usually delivered fault 7, but sometimes fault 9..

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I rather worry that I have a lose washer or bit of wire in the amp rattling around and causing random shorts - I'll have to look hard for that.

Just posting these comments in case anyone has seen anything like this before. It will be a few days before I can get back to this again...

73,

Andy, G4PIQ

2016. Alpha 89

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-04 19:07:19 UTC
From: Richard Kourey
Topic: 2016 Message: 2016

I run an Alpha 89 and drive it with 27 watts from my Icom 7851 transceiver. This weekend I experienced the amp tripping out on 17 and 15 meters CW when only loaded to 800 watts output. I was not able to run it at higher output on these two bands due to tripping out. Sometimes I could load it to 800 watts and when I would key the amp on CW, after maybe 15 seconds of keying, it would trip out. On 80, 40 and 20 meters I do not experience any problems and it operates normally. I initially thought it could be my beam, so I tested it on a dummy load and I experienced the same problem.
I don’t know where to begin to look for this problem. Any suggestions, thoughts or help would be greatly appreciated.
Rick Kourey (K4KL)Marvin/Charlotte, NC

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

2017. RE: [Alpha87a] Alpha 89

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-05 00:17:00 UTC
From: James Wolf
Topic: 2016 Message: 2017

Rick,

Is your WARC antenna a different antenna than the standard 10,15 and 20 meter frequencies? If so, I would start with the possibility that something is failing under power in the WARC antenna system.

Jim - KR9U

I run an Alpha 89 and drive it with 27 watts from my Icom 7851 transceiver. This weekend I experienced the amp tripping out on 17 and 15 meters CW when only loaded to 800 watts output. I was not able to run it at higher output on these two bands due to tripping out. Sometimes I could load it to 800 watts and when I would key the amp on CW, after maybe 15 seconds of keying, it would trip out. On 80, 40 and 20 meters I do not experience any problems and it operates normally. I initially thought it could be my beam, so I tested it on a dummy load and I

2018. Fault 11 on 80 and 160 meters only, then Fault 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-06 01:26:32 UTC
From: wa4gif@...
Topic: 2018 Message: 2018

I had a problem where I was getting Fault 8 (Transmit PIN diode back bias below minimum required value key up) constantly immediately after warm-up. I troubleshot using the procedure provided here. It turned out to be two things, the first was three KS1001 Pin diodes were bad. Couldn't get any Pin diodes anywhere so remembered they had some in the RF Concepts store. Guess what, they don't have them anymore and they now sell the 1N4007 1KV Rectifier as a replacement for it. I bought some at the local Radio Shack and it still didn't work. I continued to troubleshoot and found the Q2 (FET) on the Input T/R board was bad preventing the -109V to switch. It stayed at -1.3 volts. Ok I replaced the transistor and now it works, Kinda!

I have no problem 40 meters through 10 meters. I get full output power but when I switch to 80 meters or 160 meters and transmit I now get a Fault 11 (Transmit PIN diode forward current exceeds maximum limit key down). After I clear this fault (Standby then Operate) it immediately cues up Fault 8 and stays there until I power down and repower up and wait for 3 minutes. If the amp is still in 160 or 80 meters I still get Fault 8. If during the wait period I shift the amp to 40 meters or above it works normal going into Operate.

Now I'm stumped a bit because it only faults on two bands and the diodes and transistor are still good. Anyone have an idea regarding this failure mode? I'd appreciate a good bit of steering in the right direction.

Any help would be appreciated.

Best regards,

Butch - WA4GIF

2019. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 11 on 80 and 160 meters only, then Fault 8.

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-06 02:10:30 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 2018 Message: 2019

Go to the following link… Dick Green had the identical problem few years back and he posted a detailed message documenting his findings and repairs… not an easy repair but should solve your problems.

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Alpha87a/conversations/messages/716

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 8:27 PM
To: Alpha87a@...m
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 11 on 80 and 160 meters only, then Fault 8.

I had a problem where I was getting Fault 8 (Transmit PIN diode back bias below minimum required value key up) constantly immediately after warm-up. I troubleshot using the procedure provided here. It turned out to be two things, the first was three KS1001 Pin diodes were bad. Couldn't get any Pin diodes anywhere so remembered they had some in the RF Concepts store. Guess what, they don't have them anymore and they now sell the 1N4007 1KV Rectifier as a replacement for it. I bought some at the local Radio Shack and it still didn't work. I continued to troubleshoot and found the Q2 (FET) on the Input T/R board was bad preventing the -109V to switch. It stayed at -1.3 volts. Ok I replaced the transistor and now it works, Kinda!

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Now I'm stum! ped a bit because it only faults on two bands and the diodes and transistor are still good. Anyone have an idea regarding this failure mode? I'd appreciate a good bit of steering in the right direction.

Any help would be appreciated.

Best regards,

Butch - WA4GIF

2020. Fault 20 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-18 00:39:54 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2007 Message: 2020

This is the 2nd time in about three weeks that I have had the fault 20 problem. The first time I cleaned and reseated the connectors in the tube deck, did a visual inspection, and all was good until today until it reoccurred. Back into fault 20 at idle.

I took the amp apart and cleaned and reseated the plugs on the tube deck again plus this time I pulled the tubes, cleaned the pins, and sprayed some Deoxit into the sockets like I did with the plugs. Worked all the connections back and forth (and the tubes up and down in their sockets) to insure all was cleaned and mated properly. Checked the filament current with the laptop continuously for about five minutes and the current readings were 3.39 to 3.70 amps varying each time. The fault trip is supposed to be 4.0 amps. This was with the case on but not all the screws in or tightened, just the two center top ones to hold the safety switches down.

Put the rest of the screws in, hooked up all the cables, put the amp in position on the desk and tuned it on. Fault 20 on power up. Hooked the laptop back up. The fault cleared when the amp went out of the 3 minute warm up period. Checked the current readings again with the lap top . They are now a high of 3.92 to a low of 3.61 amps. Probably would have been higher during warm up but couldn’t read it. So far it has not faulted out again but I know it is just a matter of time. Seems to me that the filament current would be more steady than it is shown. I am typing the command “ADS FIL” on the laptop to read it with out pause and each time it is different varying .2 to .3 amps each time. To me this big a change should not be happening but I am at a loss as to what could be causing it. A visual inspection of the components under the tube deck reveal no obvious damage. The connectors on the top front of the amp are tight. Did not take them off and clean because they appeared to be solidly connected and there is not much room to remove them.

Larry K8YYY

"Never interrupt some one doing something you said couldn't be done"
Amelia Earhart

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http://www.avg.com

2021. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 20 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-18 18:38:45 UTC
From: Jerry
Topic: 2007 Message: 2021

Hi Larry,

Going through my collection of Fault Notes, the connectors are the most common culprits. Also one op noted he found a cold solder joint on a 15 yo Alpha 87a when he inspected the tube socket from below. I also was having intermittent Fault 20 and believe its due to the aging of the 0.3 Ohm 5W sensing resistor (I think it was R7).

I also found an obscure note (source unknown) that the upper threshold to fault trip filament current can be adjusted in the EEPROM if this resistor voltage drop has age shifted over time.

NOTE I DO NOT RECOMMEND THIS NOR HAVE I TRIED THIS- SO DO THIS AT YOUR OWN RISK

“The Fil current limit is stored in address B749, the normal value in hex is A1. To verify this, type

EXT ON(ENTER)

DM B749(ENTER) (the first pair of numbers read out should be A1)

To raise the limit, change the data to A4 (=4.1 amps), or A9 (=4.2 amps).

W B749 A4(ENTER)

End with

EXT OFF

“

73

Jerry, NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 7:40 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 20 problem

This is the 2nd time in about three weeks that I have had the fault 20 problem. The first time I cleaned and reseated the connectors in the tube deck, did a visual inspection, and all was good until today until it reoccurred. Back into fault 20 at idle.

I took the amp apart and cleaned and reseated the plugs on the tube deck again plus this time I pulled the tubes, cleaned the pins, and sprayed some Deoxit into the sockets like I did with the plugs. Worked all the connections back and forth (and the tubes up and down in their sockets) to insure all was cleaned and mated properly. Checked the filament current

with the laptop continuously for about five minutes and the current readings were 3.39 to 3.70 amps varying each time. The fault trip is supposed to be 4.0 amps. This was with the case on but not all the screws in or tightened, just the two center top ones to hold the safety switches down.

Put the rest of the screws in, hooked up all the cables, put the amp in position on the desk and tuned it on. Fault 20 on power up. Hooked the laptop back up. The fault cleared when the amp went out of the 3 minute warm up period. Checked the current readings again with the lap top . They are now a high of 3.92 to a low of 3.61 amps. Probably would have been higher during warm up but couldn’t read it. So far it has not faulted out again but I know it is just a matter of time. Seems to me that the filament current would be more steady than it is shown. I am typing the command “ADS FIL” on the laptop to read it with out pause and each time it is different varying .2 to .3 amps each time. To me this big a change should not be happening but I am at a loss as to what could be causing it. A visual inspection of the components under the tube deck reveal no obvious damage. The connectors on the top front of the amp are tight. Did not take them off and clean because they appeared to be solidly connected and there is not much room to remove them.

Larry K8YYY

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2022. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 20 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-18 19:01:22 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 2007 Message: 2022

Lzarry,

Just raise the fault limit.

Glenn AE0Q

The Fil current limit is stored in address B749, the normal value in hex is A1. To verify this, type

EXT ON(ENTER)
DM B749(ENTER) (the first pair of numbers read out should be A1)

To raise the limit, change the data to A4 (=4.1 amps), or A9 (=4.2 amps).

W B749 A4(ENTER)

End with
EXT OFF

On Sat, Feb 17, 2018 at 5:39 PM, 'Larry R Fravel' lfravel@...
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
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> and there is not much room to remove them.
>
> Larry K8YYY
>
>
>

--
Glenn and V-NATCH Katie,
HP-O, MXB, MJB, XF,
DOCNA S-SAA

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/

2023. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 20 problem

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-02-18 21:16:06 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2007 Message: 2023

Jerry -

Thanks for taking the time to answer. I found the problem. It was J3 on the tube deck board. the latch for the plug was pulled away from the plug and not holding the plug on to the pins. Hanging upside down let the connector loosen on the pins due to small vibrations from the fan and gravity. The latch was so brittle that when I tried to shim it, it snapped off. I fixed this by taking a small tie wrap and looping it under the board and back around through two of the three wires on the plug and pulling it tight. The plug will not come loose again and if I do need to take it off I simply need to cut the tie wrap. The filament current readings have dropped down to 2.57 to 3.06.

Larry K8YYY

"Never interrupt some one doing something you said couldn't be done"
Amelia Earhart

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http://www.avg.com

2024. Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-23 18:45:38 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2024

Hello Group

I am troubleshooting a late build Alpha87a. S/N just under 1000, built in 1997 so most of the boards have most of the revisions from the factory. This one was exhibiting a Fault 8 when switching from Standby to Operate MOST of the time. Then followed by a Fault 9 if it DID get past the STANDBY / OPERATE transition. After documenting most of the checkpoints available here for Fault 8, figured it needed new Transmit PIN diodes. Luckily a friend LOANED me a pair, which I'll replace with the substitutes now available from Mouser, but are out of stock until late April. WOW, most of a day spent doing that, it's quite a process but I was able to get them replaced successfully.

Now, no problem going to OPERATE - no more Fault 8. But, I still get FAULT 9 when I key the amp (no drive just key the amp).

The general idea based on the fault description is that this involves the PIN diodes. But, in this case I tend to think it's not my problem. Before I replaced the TR PINs, I checked ALL 4 of the RECEIVE KS1001 PIN diodes on the T/R module, and the 1 under the tube deck. All measure the same (one end lifted, using resistance mode on a VOM that puts .5v on the probes) About 870 Kohms, which is the same as a new 1N4007 which is now the Heir Apparent to the KS1001. I do have a couple of those too, and they also measure the same. So, I have ruled them out for now.

I have ordered a replacement MOSFET for Q2, the transistor that is switched on in Transmit to deliver the RF from exciter to the tubes, which is done by biasing D1 on the input board to open and let the RF through to Q2. But, with no RF coming in (static test on the amp, just closing the RELAY contacts) I get the error so I am not sure a failure there would cause the low current warning..... I am not sure what the SENSE mechanism is for the low current on the TR PINS with key line closed....

An issue is that I cannot tell if the 32v bias changes from positive to negative on transmit, since the amp won't key ... On the T/R board, J3 pins 2 and 3 both measure about +32v on receive, which is supposed to flip to -32v on transmit but I can't get it to transmit so not sure if that is an issue ....

I may be way off base, so I would appreciate any insights to what ELSE may cause FAULT 9. Not much reference on the internet (like NONE for just a Fault 9 by itself).

All fuses in the amp, including the Micro fuses in the T/R circuit are fine....

I'll of course report what I find, but any clues out there? Any tips or tricks would be much appreciated!

73 Kevin K7ZS

2025. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-23 19:50:01 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2025

Here are my notes from various people on how they fixed isolated Fault 9.

1. “T_Bias voltage (+30V/-30V) not stable at the TX PIN diodes . We could only detect this with a scope because after keydown (w/o RF) we saw immediately "Fault 9" and the amp went back to receive. We did remove the output T/R board and detected that L1 was almost open(high resistance). We could not see any damage from the top. But below L1 we saw that were "traces of an arc burn"
2. “The factory advised me to check around and under L1 on the T/R board for burn spots. When I did that, I found that the insulation under L1 had worn away and the coil was arcing to the PCB. I had to look very closely until I saw some small burn marks on a nearby mounting screw, and then I saw where an arc from the coil had burned a hole in the ground plane. This was partly obscured by the coil itself. I removed the coil and rewound it, replaced the insulation under the coil, and the problems went away completely.”

And although you checked the RX diodes there are some other things Alpha has recommended:

“Fault 9 is a problem with the -109vdc PIN diode bias voltage, usually caused by the PIN diodes or sometimes the power supply.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function. You do NOT need to remove the diode from the

chassis of the amplifier, just unsolder one of the flat, metal leads of the diode. The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function.

We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a

good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together).

With the POWER OFF, remove the amplifier cover and measure the resistance from chassis to the tank coil, there should NOT be a short. If there is, that will cause a Fault 9 because the -109 goes through the

two resistors mounted on the left side of the chassis. Check the small blue capacitor from bandswitch to the chassis located near the little circuit board on the chassis, left side. This should NOT be shorted, it

should be a high resistance. If it is close to zero ohms, then there is something shorting to ground in the RF section of the amplifier. Also Check diode D1 (1N5404) on the Safety Choke Board, mounted on the

chassis near the two resistors. Check ALL connections on the safety Choke board. Defeat BOTH interlocks. Put the plastic cap of a Bic pen on the screw of the HV shorting spring to insulate it. Connect the 87A to AC power and turn it on. Be VERY CAREFUL, there is 3000v in the power supply and on the tubes!

1) Measure the -109vdc at either end of the large resistor mounted on The chassis at the left side of the RF section. If it is below 89 volts when receiving, that is causing the fault, check PIN diodes. First remove the end of the coax cable on the little circuit board (Safety Choke Board), turn on the amp and measure -109 again. If normal (above -89vdc) there is a bad Power PIN diode (on the ABX-X220 board in the T/R Module). Reconnect coax center to Safety Choke Board.

2) Pull connector J12 (5 pin connector) at edge of Low Voltage Power Supply and measure for -109 on J5-2,3, if OK put back on. This can be difficult to do with transformer installed in amp, as an option go to step 3.

3) Pull connector J1 on Input T/R board (under tube deck), measure -109v there (P1-3, measure on cable connector not circuit board). If bad, problem is usually in LVPS. Plug in connector and measure again, if voltage is good at J1 but bad at Safety Choke Board, it may be a shorted Q2 (Input T/R Board). Go to step (4) before changing Q2, it is turned on/off by the +/-30v.

4) Measure +/- 30v on connector in T/R module, J2-2,3. It should be +30v when NOT keyed, and -30v when keyed.

To check the PIN diodes one end must be lifted from the circuit. The multimeter must be in the NORMAL resistance measuring range, NOT the "diode check" function. The forward resistance will vary a bit depending on the voltage that the meter puts across the leads in the resistance measuring function. We usually use Fluke 77 meters, and they use 0.750vdc when measuring resistance, and 2.5vdc in the diode check range. I have another meter

here that uses only 0.25vdc in the resistance function, and it reads a good diode ever higher (about 1.5 megohm) in forward bias. Measure your meter in the normal resistance check function with another in the volts

range to check the bias voltage that is used (leads connected together). The tan/yellow diodes in the T/R module are KS1001 types, and with one end lifted and 0.75vdc from the meter used to forward bias it,

they read 1.5 megohm. If yours are reading 10k and your meter uses a similar voltage on the test leads, then it is leaking too much.

There is also a KS1001 PIN diode under the tube deck that should be checked if the other 4 are OK.”

Hope these are of some help for you

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 2:46 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Hello Group

I am troubleshooting a late build Alpha87a. S/N just under 1000, built in 1997 so most of the boards have most of the revisions from the factory. This one was exhibiting a Fault 8 when switching from Standby to Operate MOST of the time. Then followed by a Fault 9 if it DID get past the STANDBY / OPERATE transition. After documenting most of the checkpoints available here for Fault 8, figured it needed new Transmit PIN diodes. Luckily a friend LOANED me a pair, which I'll replace with the substitutes now available from Mouser, but are out of stock until late April. WOW, most of a day spent doing that, it's quite a process but I was able to get them replaced successfully.

Now, no problem going to OPERATE - no more Fault 8. But, I still get FAULT 9 when I key the amp (no drive just key the amp).

The general idea based on the fault description is that this involves the PIN diodes. But, in this case I tend to think it's not my problem. Before I replaced the TR PINs, I checked ALL 4 of the RECEIVE KS1001 PIN diodes on the T/R module, and the 1 under the tube deck. All measure the same (one end lifted, using resistance mode on a VOM that puts .5v on the probes) About 870 Kohms, which is the same as a new 1N4007 which is now the Heir Apparent to the KS1001. I do have a couple of those too, and they also measure the same. So, I have ruled them out for now.

I have ordered a replacement MOSFET for Q2, the transistor that is switched on in Transmit to deliver the RF from exciter to the tubes, which is done by biasing D1 on the input board to open and let the RF through to Q2. But, with no RF coming in (static test on the amp, just closing the RELAY contacts) I get the error so I am not sure a failure there would cause the low current warning..... I am not sure what the SENSE mechanism is for the low current on the TR PINS with key line closed....

An issue is that ! I cannot tell if the 32v bias changes from positive to negative on transmit, since the amp won't key ... On the T/R board, J3 pins 2 and 3 both measure about +32v on receive, which is supposed to flip to -32v on transmit but I can't get it to transmit so not sure if that is an issue ....

I may be way off base, so I would appreciate any insights to what ELSE may cause FAULT 9. Not much reference on the internet (like NONE for just a Fault 9 by itself).

All fuses in the amp, including the Micro fuses in the T/R circuit are fine....

I'll of course report what I find, but any clues out there? Any tips or tricks would be much appreciated!

73 Kevin K7ZS

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2026. RE: [Alpha87a] Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-23 20:47:48 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2026

Hello Jerry

Thanks for the quick reply, and I will have to take a much closer look @ L1. I did take a close look, but with the cable ties holding it down tight, there could be a short on the underheath side. Good tip on using the scope to see if the 30v bias change is happening, a VOM, even analog, would not have time to see that. This amp is extraordinarily clean but that doesn't mean anything if that arc is under the coil and the insulation pad beneath it.

I did find that other document you thoughtfully provided, and have performed all of those tests EXCEPT the -32v XMT test of T-Bias and now I know how I will do that.

Many thanks, I hope this uncovers the problem ... stay tuned!

Thanks and 73

Kevin K7ZS

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <jsternmd@...> wrote :

Here are my notes from various people on how they fixed isolated Fault 9.

“T_Bias voltage (+30V/-30V) not stable at the TX PIN diodes . We could only detect this with a scope because after keydown (w/o RF) we saw immediately "Fault 9" and the amp went back to receive. We did remove the output T/R board and detected that L1 was almost open(high resistance). We could not see any damage from the top. But below L1 we saw that were "traces of an arc burn" “The factory advised me to check around and under L1 on the T/R board for burn spots. When I did that, I found that the insulation under L1 had worn away and the coil was arcing to the PCB. I had to look very closely until I saw some small burn marks on a nearby mounting screw, and then I saw where an arc from the coil had burned a hole in the ground plane. This was partly obscured by the coil itself. I removed the coil and rewound it, replaced the insulation under the coil, and the problems went away completely.”

2027. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-23 21:34:13 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2027

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <jsternmd@...> wrote :

JERRY! - BINGO!!

Wow, measuring L1 it was OPEN! I clipped off the zip tie (why is that thing on there with such a DEATH GRIP ... it pressed the windings well into the little insulating pad)

Got the thing off and WIRE BURNED COMPLETELY OPEN and the rubber mat was CHARCOAL.

SO, I wonder why that thing has to be on there SO tight? I will not be tearing that T/R module out again to put the zip tie back in, but will rewind the choke and I should be one step closer, if not DONE with this educating repair...

Thanks, stay tuned, and I'll up load the photo of burned L1 to the Files area for all to see...

73 and thanks again Jerry, my quick glance at L1 was NOT enough!

-Kevin K7ZS

Here are my notes from various people on how they fixed isolated Fault 9.

“T_Bias voltage (+30V/-30V) not stable at the TX PIN diodes . We could only detect this with a scope because after keydown (w/o RF) we saw immediately "Fault 9" and the amp went back to receive. We did remove the output T/R board and detected that L1 was almost open(high resistance). We could not see any damage from the top. But below L1 we saw that were "traces of an arc burn" “The factory advised me to check around and under L1 on the T/R board for burn spots. When I did that, I found that the insulation under L1 had worn away and the coil was arcing to the PCB. I had to look very closely until I saw some small burn marks on a nearby mounting screw, and then I saw where an arc from the coil had burned a hole in the ground plane. This was partly obscured by the coil itself. I removed the coil and rewound it, replaced the insulation under the coil, and the problems went away completely.”

2028. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-23 22:38:02 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2028

Rewound L1, 31 turns of #26 insulated wire, and that did indeed take care of fault 8

NOW, it is showing FAULT 7 when it keys up, which is about the -109v line not going away, so that might be the Q2 issue, as that transistor shorts the -109v to ground. That part is coming.

Off to do CQWW WPX SSB, 2 Alpha 9500's in the M/2 contest station so we'll be Alpha Power anyway!

73 and stay tuned.

-Kevin K7ZS

2029. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-24 01:04:33 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2029

Did you see an arc trace under L1?

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2018 6:38 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Rewound L1, 31 turns of #26 insulated wire, and that did indeed take care of fault 8

NOW, it is showing FAULT 7 when it keys up, which is about the -109v line not going away, so that might be the Q2 issue, as that transistor shorts the -109v to ground. That part is coming.

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73 and stay tuned.

-Kevin K7ZS

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2030. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-24 01:28:45 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2030

Hi Jerry

I posted a photo of the L1 after I had removed it, and it had burned the wire ... obviously it had flashed over so yes evidence of an arc. It didn't as others had mentioned blow a hole through the circuit board material, the 26 gauge wire gave up the ghost (broke) so that ended it keying up.

I wonder if putting a dab of silicone under the coil to keep it in position is a good idea. It seems pretty stable anyway. It sure isn't pressed hard into the little pad they had, which obviously pushed the coil clear against the bottom of the T/R enclosure.

Anything else I should look for there before chasing Fault 7?

THANKS so much for our help! I need to talk to you about your Collins stuff after this is finished!

73 Kevin K7ZS

2031. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-24 18:12:57 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2031

I doubt that pressure from tight wire ties was the direct cause of the arcing. It's gradual disintegration of the rubber (foam?) pad over time. Mine wasn't as charred as yours, but it fell apart when touched. The pressure from the wire ties might have caused the arcing to start sooner, but removing the pressure wouldn't have solved the problem.

I replaced the pad with a piece of scrap rubber mat that won't disintegrate. It's probably around 1/16" thick. I used wire ties to hold L1 in place and pulled them tight enough to ensure that L1 wouldn't move. A dab of silicone wouldn't hurt, but I wouldn't rely solely on that to keep L1 in place.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <k7zs@...> wrote :

Hi Jerry

I posted a photo of the L1 after I had removed it, and it had burned the wire ... obviously it had flashed over so yes evidence of an arc. It didn't as others had mentioned blow a hole through the circuit board material, the 26 gauge wire gave up the ghost (broke) so that ended it keying up.

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Anything else I should look for there before chasing Fault 7?

THANKS so much for our help! I need to talk to you about your Collins stuff after this is finished!

73 Kevin K7ZS

2032. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-24 19:19:29 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2032

Hi Dick

Thanks for chiming in, and I suppose the pressure against that pad was not really a contributing factor... I'll be replacing the black pad with a silicone rubber pad. My fault for not catching it sooner, it was very hard to see, but knew I was probably on to the Fault 9 problem after it measured open. This, of course, right after putting it all back together after I replaced the TR PINs! Probably going to use RTV (per another suggestion) to anchor L1 until I have reason to remove the T/R board again (which I hope is NEVER!) and add the cable ties....

Now, on to FAULT 7 ... but after the contest is over!

Again thanks Dick, I see that you are a big contributor here and on Amps reflector and are very familiar with the 87a! Your input much appreciated!

73 Kevin K7ZS

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <wc1m73@...> wrote :

I doubt that pressure from tight wire ties was the direct cause of the arcing. It's gradual disintegration of the rubber (foam?) pad over time. Mine wasn't as charred as yours, but it fell apart when touched. The pressure from the wire ties might have caused the arcing to start sooner, but removing the pressure wouldn't have solved the problem.

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73, Dick WC1M

2033. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-24 21:13:18 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2033

Hi Dick,

How about just some Kapton tape?

73

Jerry NY2KW (ex-K1JOS)

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2018 2:13 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

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73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> , <k7zs@...
<mailto:k7zs@...> > wrote :

Hi Jerry

I posted a photo of the L1 after I had removed it, and it had burned the wire ... obviously it had flashed over so yes evidence of an arc. It didn't as others had mentioned blow a hole through the circuit board material, the 26 gauge wire gave up the ghost (broke) so that ended it keying up.

I wonder if putting a dab of silicone under the coil to keep it in position is a good idea. It seems pretty stable anyway. It sure isn't pressed hard into the little pad they had, which obviously pushed the coil clear against the bottom of the T/R enclosure.

Anything else I should look for there before chasing Fault 7?

THANKS so much for our help! I need to talk to you about your Collins stuff after this is finished!

73 Kevin K7ZS

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2034. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-26 03:46:12 UTC
From: Dick Green WC1M
Topic: 2024 Message: 2034

>K7ZS wrote:

>

>This, of course, right after putting it all back together after I replaced the TR PINs! Probably going to use RTV

>(per another suggestion) to anchor L1 until I have reason to remove the T/R board again (which I hope is NEVER!) and add the cable ties....

I cheated -- didn't remove the T/R board. I cut L1's leads as close to the inductor as I could and soldered the newly-wound leads to them. Somehow I managed to snake a new set of cable ties through the holes, but I don't remember how.

73, Dick WC1M

2035. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-03-31 15:20:05 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2035

ALL GOOD! After rewinding and securing L1 (RTV method for now) my only mistake was putting the wire from L1 onto the pad directly off the end of the coil OOPS! That's GROUND! After getting some replacement 1/4a Microfuses, and correcting which pad L1 goes to ... ALL GOOD!

Amplifier works full output on all bands.

Thanks for the help here from the group, I now have my T/R PIN Alpha Merit Badge..... and a beautiful 87a to saddle up to my 76PA (also running 3CX800's) and 9500 ... with backup sets of tubes for all.

A great learning experience!

73 Kevin K7ZS

2036. Bring up to Spec: Replace High Voltage R1 to R14 & R40 to R44 soggestion

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-01 00:17:27 UTC
From: jking2603@...
Topic: 2036 Message: 2036

Suggest verifying if R1 to R14 & R40 to R44 are still to spec.

While working on Fault 1 on my 200 series 87A I was really surprised to find the R1 to R14 & R40 to R44 on the High voltage Board were all in the range of 250K to 260K.

These resistors seem to have increased in value by 30 to 40K each, which will have taken the total spec resistance from 4,180 K ohm to 4,902 K ohms 772 k ohms higher: This suggests to me voltage on the capacitors will have dropped to about 85% of the original specification.
.
[by the way C6 to C12 were all in the range of 385uF to 372 uF]

The spec is on page 7 of the parts list as:

RESISTOR 220K OHM 2W (HIGH VOLT) RFC-E224-C R1-R14,R40-R44
Above part replaced by 220K 3w Film Resistor RFF-F224-C Same as line above

That is::
220K +-5% at 2W High Voltage Carbon Resistor in range 209K to 231k

The upgraded spec is 220K +-5% at 3W High Voltage Film

I would be interested in any feedback others have had about the resisters going up in value and what the changes were (in output power) after the resistors are replaced to specification.

I found REPLACEMENT resistors available at element14.com being

Vishay PR03000202203JAC00
220kohm http://nz.element14.com/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?resistance=220kohm

PR03 Series http://nz.element14.com/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?product-range=pr03-series
3W± 5% http://nz.element14.com/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?power-rating=3w Axial Leaded http://nz.element14.com/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?resistor-case-style=axial-leaded

votage rating 750 V http://nz.element14.com/w/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?voltage-rating=750v

Metal Film http://nz.element14.com/w/c/passive-components/resistors-fixed-value/through-hole-resistors?resistor-element-type=metal-film

http://nz.element14.com/vishay/pr03000202203jac00/res-metal-film-220k-5-axl/dp/2614557?st=220K%203w%20750V http://nz.element14.com/vishay/pr03000202203jac00/res-metal-film-220k-5-axl/dp/2614557?st=220K%203w%20750V

at $0.72 each

Look forward to any feedback.

yours sincerely
Jeff ZL4AI

2037. Re: Bring up to Spec: Replace High Voltage R1 to R14 & R40 to R44 soggestion

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-01 00:50:42 UTC
From: k7zs@...
Topic: 2036 Message: 2037

Hi Jeff

R1 through R14 are merely bleeders and voltage balancing resistors for the filter capacitor bank. I don't think there is much of a 'spec' for TOTAL resistance, so that is not really important. More important is that they are high voltage rated (they are), are all intact (sounds like they are) and fairly equal in value (and that they are!). Only a 10k variation between all those resistors is actually quite good! These were never super high precision resistors anyway, and of course you don't REALLY know what value they were when new! The only effect of their higher resistance is a slightly slower bleed down. Unequal resistance could place a lot more voltage on 1 cap, an open resistor pair on a given cap could leave a capacitor charged and possibly dangerous if you were to get in there to work and it was waiting to bite you!

Carbon composition is obsolete, replaced by metal film which are less prone to value change, inexpensive and readily available. If you're going through your amp with a long term preventative maintenance mindset, there is no reason NOT to replace them with fresh parts. But, that said, I don't think you have any real problem going on there.

As for R40 - R44, I am not certain of their function, but as they are attached to the string of zeners, the value may be a bit more important as it seems to be a dropping resistor string

I am sure the experts here may have a different opinion, but that's my take Jeff!

73 from Oregon

-Kevin K7ZS

2038. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-01 01:23:17 UTC
From: jking2603@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2038

Hi Kevin,

Thanks to your advice on the rubber below L1 deteriorating I will be working on putting in a replacement om my 87A as safety long life improvement measure,

It appears this should really go on the list of component items to be fixed on every 87A

Yours sincerely

Jeff ZL4AI

2039. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-01 17:19:06 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2039

In this particular case, I agree with Jeff that checking and/or replacing L1 and the pad under it should be done on every 87A, especially older ones.

Arcing at L1 can not only generate faults that prevent the amp from operating, but the arcs can also damage the transmit PIN diodes, which aren't cheap or easy to replace. I know, because one of my transmit PIN diodes was destroyed before I discovered that L1 was arcing.

It can be a bit of work to deal with this problem, but it this case it's worth it.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <jking2603@...> wrote :

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Yours sincerely

Jeff ZL4AI

2040. Re: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-01 17:40:56 UTC
From: Bob Sitterley
Topic: 2024 Message: 2040

Gang:

I just looked at my 87 A and It looks like it doesn't have a pad underneath L1 on the input board. It looks like silicone. It has never been back to factory and is serial # 4. My QSK hasn't worked for years. I am doing a work around with a second relay in the standby circuit with a half second delay before the keying relay engages. I have to remove the 2 fuses on the output board in order for this to work. This works for me as I am only a phone op.

The amp still has the orig 1990 800-A7's in it. Not bad as the friend I got it from who was blind frequently forgot to turn down the drove on 160 on his 950 and as you know that is way over driven and the voice peaks lit all of the red lights and the grid drive lights as well but it didn't shut down too often!

Bob K7POF

On 4/1/2018 10:19 AM, wc1m73@... [Alpha87a] wrote:
>
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>
> 73, Dick WC1M
>
>
> ---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <jking2603@...> wrote :
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>
>
> Yours sincerely
>
> Jeff ZL4AI
>

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2041. Re: Fault 9 after fixing Fault 8

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-02 21:02:33 UTC
From: w9re@...
Topic: 2024 Message: 2041

Regarding the replacement of the pad underneath L1 would it be possible for someone who has recently accomplished this to write up the steps to accomplish?

I have (3) 87A’s and as far as I know this has not ever been changed on any of mine. 2 of them are 91’s and 1 is a 93 serial number.

Thanks,

Mike W9RE

2042. Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 12:03:12 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 2042 Message: 2042

The Alpha 87A has been flawless all year except it would fault 17 only on 160M and 80M..
The 80M fault 17 has been rectified by realigning of the band switch. The calibration and checking of the Diodes in the input Output wattmeter's did not seem to be the problem.

160M is STILL a problem. L1 is not the problem as it is out of the circuit as the amp has been modified years ago with Vacuum relays as we were tired of replacing TX Pin Diodes and L! was not required anymore.

The Fault 17 happens the minute the power goes above 110watts and is too fast to even try to Retune the amp after the Default settings were added back in for 160M. The band switch seems to be perfectly aligned and we have even moved the adjustment as laid out in the hundreds of messages on the band switch alignment with no avail.

Anyone have any help or thoughts as I am out of ideas.
Even put in a brand new Pair of Eimac tubes and still have the exact same problems.
Output full power on all bands NO problem . Fault 17 on 160M is driving me over the edge?
Any Help please?
You can contact me direct at n2bj@comcast.net

Thank You
Barry N2BJ

2043. Re: [Alpha87a] Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 13:30:38 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 2042 Message: 2043

Barry,

Alpha amplifiers (including the 87A) use fixed padding capacitors on 160m and 80m. If one of the disc ceramic caps for 160m only is shorted, the amp will fault only on that band. If one used on both 80m and 160m is bad it would get a gain fault (fault 17) on both bands and no other bands.

There are 5 caps mounted on the chassis that are in parallel with the TUNE cap only on 160m.

There are caps on a vertically mounted PCB next to the L-inductor that are in parallel with the LOAD cap, the bottom 3 are used on 80m, and all of them on the board are used on 160m

Look for a black spot on the body of one of those, that is probably the bad capacitor. You can cut it out of the circuit to test, the tuning will change slightly.

Glenn AE0Q (replying from my home email).

Alpha RF Systems, LLC
634 South Sunset Street
Longmont CO 80501

service@...

Phone: (303) 716-7728

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 6:03 AM, n2bj@... [Alpha87a] <
Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> The Alpha 87A has been flawless all year except it would fault 17 only on
> 160M and 80M.. The 80M fault 17 has been rectified by realigning of the
> band switch. The calibration and checking of the Diodes in the input Output
> wattmeter's did not seem to be the problem.
>
> 160M is STILL a problem. L1 is not the problem as it is out of the circuit
> as the amp has been modified years ago with Vacuum relays as we were tired
> of replacing TX Pin Diodes and L! was not required anymore.
>
> The Fault 17 happens the minute the power goes above 110watts and is too
> fast to even try to Retune the amp after the Default settings were added
> back in for 160M. The band switch seems to be perfectly aligned and we have
> even moved the adjustment as laid out in the hundreds of messages on the
> band switch alignment with no avail.

>
> Anyone have any help or thoughts as I am out of ideas.
>
> Even put in a brand new Pair of Eimac tubes and still have the exact same
> problems.
>
> Output full power on all bands NO problem . Fault 17 on 160M is driving me
> over the edge?
>
> Any help please?
>
> You can contact me direct at n2bj@...
>
> Thank You
>
> Barry N2BJ
>
>
>
>

--
Glenn and V-NATCH Katie,
HP-O, MXB, MJB, XF,
DOCNA S-SAA
http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/
http://funagility.webs.com/

2044. Re: Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 17:54:28 UTC
From: jbwolf@...
Topic: 2042 Message: 2044

Barry,

I had a similar problem and it manifested itself on the lower bands, however, not just 160, but 160 was the worst. At higher power levels, typically around 200-400 watts, one of the watt meter diodes would fail as power was increased causing the amp to think the gain had changed outside of its parameters. On my amp, it was D1 on the input watt meter board, which is a IN5711. You won't want to replace this with a standard diode as the IN5711 it is a Schottky and its low forward voltage drop is much less.

<<<<< The Fault 17 happens the minute the power goes above 110watts and is too fast to even try to Retune the amp after the Default settings were added back in for 160M. The band switch seems to be perfectly aligned and we have even moved the adjustment as laid out in the hundreds of messages on the band switch alignment with no avail.>>>>>

Jim - KR9U

2045. Bandswitch calibration HEX Defaults on Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 19:38:49 UTC
From: n2bj@...
Topic: 2045 Message: 2045

I now have my Alpha up and operating on all bands except 160M
Realigned bandswitch however I don't have the factory default FIRST HEX number for 160M?
/

Does anyone have the actual procedure for aligning the bandswitch?

Also the main thing I need right now if someone can help me is the first HEX Default factory digit for 160M
The check on 160M was b7bb but I lost or can't find what the first HEX digit is I think I have it incorrect?
I am real close on getting everything back up and running so if someone has thefactory procedure for alignment of the switch or the factory default of the first Hex Number that would help me out.

Imemory locations for the bandswitch positions:

160m b7bb
80m b7bc
40m b7bd
30m b7be
20m b7bf
17m b7c0
15m b7c1
12m b7c2
10m b7c3

Thanks

Barry

2046. RE: [Alpha87a] Bandswitch calibration HEX Defaults on Alpha 87A

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 19:50:35 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2045 Message: 2046

I have the dump from one of my Alpha 87a’s

B7B0 = FF FF FF FF 02 FF FF FF

B7B8 = FF FF FF 1B 2F 41 57 6A

B7C0 = 7D 90 A3 B3 14 24 FF FF

73

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 3:39 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Bandswitch calibration HEX Defaults on Alpha 87A

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Realigned bandswitch however I don't have the factory default FIRST HEX number for 160M?

/

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Imemory locations for the bandswitch positions:

160m b7bb

80m b7bc

40m b7bd

30m b7be

20m b7bf

17m b7c0

15m b7c1

12m b7c2

10m b7c3

Thanks

Barry

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2047. Re: Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 22:17:54 UTC
From: wc1m73@...
Topic: 2042 Message: 2047

Check the input band switch. It's in a compartment under the tubes that you can access via the small trap door on the bottom of the amp. It's possible the 160M contact is worn, broken, defective or has some gunk on it.

My 87A had a defective 10m contact on the input band switch from the day it was new, but the fault 17s happened only intermittently until I had the amp for about 10 years. Then they started happening more and more often as the contact on the input band switch got worse and worse. I *think* I figured all this out by patching the amp to use the 12m band switch position on 10m, which worked. That proved it wasn't the main bandswitch alignment or something in the output network.

The solution was to replace the input band switch wafer. It's a little tricky due to the tight space, and my vague recollection is that I had to unsolder the output coax lead, but it was so long ago I don't remember. All in all, it wasn't all that difficult to do. The switch wafer cost something like $75.

Unfortunately, it could be something else. Fault 17 (gain mismatch) can be very misleading because the 87A checks faults in a certain order and 17 is too early in the sequence. Many things can cause a gain mismatch, so you need more info. For example, it's checked before the "excessive drive" condition. Sometimes you do get the excessive drive condition, but it depends on where in the fault check sequence the amp is when the fault occurs. Dick Ehrhorn himself admitted to me that this was a bug in the 87A. It's really a consequence of using a main loop polling sequence instead of an interrupt-driven fault sequence.

73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com, <n2bj@...> wrote :

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160M is STILL a problem. L1 is not the problem as it is out of the circuit as the amp has been modified years ago with Vacuum relays as we were tired of replacing TX Pin Diodes and L! was not required anymore.

The Fault 17 happens the minute the power goes above 110watts and is too fast to even try to Retune the amp after the Default settings were added back in for 160M. The band switch seems to be perfectly aligned and we have even moved the adjustment as laid out in the hundreds of messages on the band switch alignment with no avail.

Anyone have any help or thoughts as I am out of ideas.
Even put in a brand new Pair of Eimac tubes and still have the exact same problems.
Output full power on all bands NO problem . Fault 17 on 160M is driving me over the edge?
Any Help please?
You can contact me direct at n2bj@...

Thank You
Barry N2BJ

2048. RE: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-05 22:43:13 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2042 Message: 2048

Hi Dick,

Has anyone published the fault polling sequence? Is it just linear numerically or is there some rhyme or reason? I also recall an email I received many years ago from Brad, that sometimes the only way to go through the less common causes of faults was to “turn off the fault”. Are you aware of how that can be done?

73 Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 6:18 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Re: Fault 17 only on 160 Meters

Check the input band switch. It's in a compartment under the tubes that you can access via the small trap door on the bottom of the amp. It's possible the 160M contact is worn, broken, defective or has some gunk on it.

My 87A had a defective 10m contact on the input band switch from the day it was new, but the fault 17s happened only intermittently until I had the amp for about 10 years. Then they started happening more and more often as the contact on the input band switch got worse and worse. I *think* I figured all this out by patching the amp to use the 12m band switch position on 10m, which worked. That proved it wasn't the main bandswitch alignment or something in the output network.

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73, Dick WC1M

---In Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <mailto:Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> , <n2bj@...
<mailto:n2bj@...> > wrote :

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Output full power on all bands NO problem . Fault 17 on 160M is driving me over the edge?

Any Help please?

You can contact me direct at n2bj@...

Thank You

Barry N2BJ

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2049. Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-14 19:56:42 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2049

I have a strange problem – at least to me. When the amp is in the stand by setting I can load any antenna I have - JK Navassa. 80 and 160 dipoles, and 43 foot DXE vertical with full drive from my IC-7600, As soon as I switch to operate on any antenna the rig drops to an out put of about 35 watts. I have an external meter on the output of rig between it and the amp to verify output from the rig. The best output on the amp. is about 700 watts key down according to both the amp’s LEDs and the meter on my PalStar 1500 auto Tuner.

This does not happen on any other band and just started the other day. Anyone have any ideas?

Larry K8YYY

"Never interrupt some one doing something you said couldn't be done"
Amelia Earhart

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2050. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-14 20:16:43 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2050

I should have said this only occurs on 17 meters. All other bands on all antennas are fine.

Larry K8YYY

"Never interrupt some one doing something you said couldn't be done"
Amelia Earhart

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2051. RE: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-14 20:29:12 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2051

First try it into a good dummy load

73 Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2018 3:57 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

I have a strange problem – at least to me. When the amp is in the stand by setting I can load any antenna I have - JK Navassa. 80 and 160 dipoles, and 43 foot DXE vertical with full drive from my IC-7600, As soon as I switch to operate on any antenna the rig drops to an out put of about 35 watts. I have an external meter on the output of rig between it and the amp to verify output from the rig. The best output on the amp. is about 700 watts key down according to both the amp's LEDs and the meter on my PalStar 1500 auto Tuner.

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2052. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-14 20:44:48 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2052

And all bands but 17 meters is fine on any antenna., and 17 is fine on all antennas. It only happens when I am on 17 on the rig any antenna tuned with 10 to 15 watts with the amp in stand by. As soon as I switch the amp to operate it only allows 30 watts drive on 17 meters. All other and antennas are just fine. Full output on the amp with 50 to 60 watts drive. What I am wondering is if there a problem in the amp’s input somehow that its internal tuner is having a problem with the 17 meter band.

Larry K8YYY

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Amelia Earhart

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2053. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-15 15:19:01 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2053

The tuner on the rig was off and not set on auto tune so it does not factor into this problem. 17 meters -I checked the SWR to the input both in stand by and operate. In standby mode the out board meter on the output of rig’s antenna connector does not move. Put the amp into operate and the meter goes to about 2.5:1. It is hard to say because the needles cross below the graduation marks so that is as clear as I can estimate. Checked this same thing against 20 meters and the SWR needle never moves in the operate mode once the antenna is tuned. On 17 meters the outboard PalStar AT-1500 auto tuner shows good in operate and stand by but we have the fold back on the power into the amp. To me this would indicate an internal amp problem but I have no idea where to begin to look.

Larry K8YYY

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Amelia Earhart

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2054. RE: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-15 15:58:35 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2054

I am not sure what you mean when you said…" In standby mode the out board meter on the output of rig's antenna connector does not move. Put the amp into operate and the meter goes to about 2.5:1. "

What is the outboard meter? When you say "rig" do you mean the amp or transceiver? Hard to understand what you are measuring or observing.

It may be a mismatch from your xcvr to the Alpha87's input circuit for 17m. Simplest thing to try is to change the length of the coax between your transceiver and the amp. Make it some odd multiple of whatever the current coax length might be… or just add 10'. Do you have a separate SWR/Power meter that you can place between the transceiver and the amp? Do not rely on the transceiver meter readings. Do not use any autotuner in the transceiver… keep it off.

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@...m>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 11:19 AM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

The tuner on the rig was off and not set on auto tune so it does not factor into this problem. 17 meters -I checked the SWR to the input both in stand by and operate. In standby mode the out board meter on the output of rig's antenna connector does not move. Put the amp into operate and the meter goes to about 2.5:1. It is hard to say because the needles cross below the graduation marks so that is as clear as I can estimate. Checked this same thing against 20 meters and the SWR needle never moves in the operate mode once the antenna is tuned. On 17 meters the outboard PalStar AT-1500 auto tuner shows good in operate and stand by but we have the fold back on the power into the amp. To me this would indicate an internal amp problem but I have no idea where to begin to look.

Larry K8YYY

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2055. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-15 16:22:56 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2055

The rig is an IC-7600, the out out board meter is a Daiwa SWR/Power meter that I use to check the IC-7600 out put power/drive to the amp and for use when I am in FT-8 mode. The meter is connected to the antenna out on the back of the IC-7600. The output of the meter is then connected to the input of of the 87A. When the 87A is in “stand by” mode I can get full power to drive the amp (I only use 60 to 70 watts depending upon band or combination there of). The SWR on the Daiwa out board meter at that point is as low as the SWR needle on the Daiwa meter as it can go. This is the same as any other band.

As soon as I put the 87A into “operate” mode and key it the Daiwa meter shows that the power out of the IC-7600 drops to 30 watts and the SWR needle moves to at least 2.5:1. This does not happen on any other band. All other bands continue to show 60 to 70 watts drive and minimum SWR in “operate” mode. To me this would indicate a problem with the amps internal tuner on 17 meters since all other bands behave correctly. It could be that thee is a high SWR on the input of the amp on 17 meters only. This would cause the IC-7600 to fold back power on that band.

My problem is that I have no idea about where to start looking in the amp.

I have no idea of how else to explain this.

K8YYY

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2056. RE: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-15 18:04:01 UTC
From: <jsternmd@...>
Topic: 2024 Message: 2056

1. Did you try this into a Dummy load instead of your antenna's, as I first asked?
2. What is the current coax length between the 7600 and amp? If 6' or less than add a section totally about 20' and re-test.
3. As pointed out to me when I experienced this many years ago with my first 87A and a Kenwood TS-950 ---" There could be a number of causes for the 17m only problem. It could be a dirty or or faulty input bandswitch. Or, it could be that your bandswitch needs recalibrating -- the contacts may be landing just on the margin in the 17m position. If you can hook up a PC to your 87A, you can test whether the bandswitch needs recalibrating on 17m and you can patch a new calibration factor into the firmware.

Try 1 and 2 and report back, I have instructions somewhere for recalibration I can send you. But before you attempt that check coax length

Jerry NY2KW

From: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

The rig is an IC-7600, the out out board meter is a Daiwa SWR/Power meter that I use to check the IC-7600 out put power/drive to the amp and for use when I am in FT-8 mode. The meter is connected to the antenna out on the back of the IC-7600. The output of the meter is then connected to the input of of the 87A. When the 87A is in "stand by" mode I can get full power to drive the amp (I only use 60 to 70 watts depending upon band or combination there of). The SWR on the Daiwa out board meter at that point is as low as the SWR needle on the Daiwa meter as it can go. This is the same as any other band.

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My problem is that I have no idea about where to start looking in the amp.

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2057. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-15 18:51:27 UTC
From: Larry R Fravel
Topic: 2024 Message: 2057

Your thought about adding 20 feet of cable between the amp and the rig got me to thinking. This started happening after I had added the meter in between the rigs out put and the amp. I fed it with about 2 feet of cable from the rigs Ant Out connector to the the meter and then used the existing cable that used to run from the rig to amp as the output of the meter to the amp. the existing cable was about 6 to 7 feet long. Took the meter out of the circuit and everything is happy now. I have no idea why this just affected 17 meters and nothing else and that is why I was thinking it was an amp 17 meter problem. thanks for all your suggestions.

Yes I do have an old XP lap top with a real serial port I picked up just so I could use it with the amp via Hyper terminal.

Thanks again for chiming in. It was a screwy thing but taking the meter and that 2 foot coax jumper out cured it all.

Larry K8YYY

2058. Re: [Alpha87a] Power problem on 17 meters

Yahoo group: Alpha87a
Date: 2018-04-16 13:27:31 UTC
From: GWP
Topic: 2024 Message: 2058

Larry,

A problem with the input SWR on a particular band can be caused by the INPUT bandswitch being a little bit out of alignment on that band. To test this, first manually select a lower band, then go to the band in question.. Try transmitting and tuning the amp. Note the input SWR. Then manually select a higher band, then go to band in question, and try transmitting again. If input SWR changes, or if the 87A gets a Fault 17, it is the bandswitch alignment.

Instructions are below, you will need to have a computer communicating with the amp before you can realign the bandswitch.

If the input SWR does NOT change with the bandswitch position, you can adjust the tuned input networks for each band by spreading or squeezing the turns on the toroid inductor for each band. They are located on the circuit board with the bandswitch that is inside the tubedeck. Note that as the tubes age the input SWR will rise on some bands. If it is adjusted down and then tubes later replaced, it will need to be again adjusted to be low with the new tubes.

On the Tuned Input board L1=10m, L2=12m, L3=15m, L4=17m, L5=20m, L6=30m, L7=40m, L8=80m, L9=160m.

Glenn AE0Q

Example for 17m, type commands below.

EXT ON (turns on 'factory mode')

DM B7C0 (write down first two digits)

W B7C0 xx (xx = original hex number up or down 2)

If it works when you come from a lower band, increment the number. If it works coming from higher band, decrement the number.

When done type:

EXT OFF

==========

memory locations for the bandswitch positions:

160m b7bb
80m b7bc
40m b7bd
30m b7be

20m b7bf
17m b7c0
15m b7c1
12m b7c2
10m b7c3

Glenn AE0Q
Alpha RF Systems

On Sun, Apr 15, 2018 at 10:22 AM, 'Larry R Fravel' lfravel@...t
[Alpha87a] <Alpha87a@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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> My problem is that I have no idea about where to start looking in the amp.
>
> I have no idea of how else to explain this.
>
> K8YYY
> ess all your inboxes (Gmail, Outlook, AOL and more) in one place. Never
> delete an email again with 1000GB of free cloud storage.
>
>
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Glenn and V-NATCH Katie,
HP-O, MXB, MJB, XF,
DOCNA S-SAA

http://www.hoopsandjumps.com/

http://funagility.webs.com/